

## Amnesty charges Kurds of rampant abuses

NICOSIA (AP) — Feuding factions which rule the self-governing Kurdish enclave in northern Iraq are guilty of rampant human rights abuses, Amnesty International said Tuesday. "The situation in Iraqi Kurdistan is now critical," the London-based human rights monitoring group said in a report prepared after a three-year study of the situation there. "A climate of fear has been building up in Iraqi Kurdistan where there have been waves of assassinations, torture, and killings of prisoners," the report said. "During the last three years, hundreds of people — civilians and combatants taken prisoner — have suffered human rights abuses at the hands of forces acting under the authority of Kurdish political parties." It added. Amnesty said the abuses were committed by armed forces of the Kurdistan Democratic Party and its ally, the Tehran-backed Islamic Movement in Iraq, Kurdistan, and the rival Patriotic Union of Kurdistan. Amnesty said that "the Kurdish people suffered terribly from past human rights violations by the Iraqi government, which continues to commit crimes on a massive scale with total impunity." Now it is the Kurdish political parties which are abusing fundamental human rights."

Volume 19 Number 5856

## 15 injured in road accident

AMMAN (I.T.) — Fifteen people were injured in a road accident on the Amman-Zarqa highway on Monday, according to a Civil Defence Department (CDD) official. The official told the Jordan Times that the accident took place Monday afternoon when a public transport company bus slammed into a trailer truck. All injured were taken to Zarqa government hospital and were listed in good to fair condition.

## Officials take courses

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker on Monday attended at the Royal Cultural Centre a graduation ceremony for officials who completed administration courses organised by the Public Administration Institute in 1994. Minister of Administrative Development Mobeiddin Tad delivered an address at the ceremony in which he said these courses are part of an integrated training plan aiming to develop the performance of civil servants. He said his ministry will continue through the institute to implement a national training plan in order to improve administrative performance. At the end of the ceremony, Sharif Zeid distributed diplomas to the 135 graduates who represent various government departments and ministries.

## University professor killed in Algeria

ALGIERS (AFP) — Algeria went through another weekend of political violence with a woman university professor assassinated here and a man sitting in a packed coffee house killed by a group of armed men in a village west of Algiers. The professor, who taught at the National Institute of Agronomy located in an Algiers suburb, was identified as Khadija Aissa by local radio. The radio said she was killed Sunday by "terrorists." The daily Liberte newspaper also reported Monday on the killing of a villager in Sidi Abdallah, located 20 kilometres west of Algiers.

## Zaire expels dozens of Lebanese

BEIRUT (AFP) — Lebanese Foreign Minister Fares Bouez denounced Monday a decision by Zaire to expel dozens of Lebanese nationals for "economic crimes" such as diamond smuggling. "This decision shows it has not been well thought out. Children's names are on the list and it is hardly likely or logical that they have broken any laws," he told journalists. "We consider this an injustice against the Lebanese community. If it is true that some Lebanese have broken the law, it is unfair that the whole community should be affected by this decision." The Lebanese charge d'affaires in Zaire has been asked by Mr. Bouez to contact the African country's leaders for talks on the situation. Mr. Bouez has also contacted France and Belgium over the issue. Some 84 foreigners, mostly Lebanese, were given 24 hours to leave the country in a decree by Prime Minister Kengo Wa Bando issued in Kinshasa on Friday.

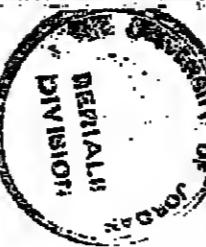
## Germany holds alleged PKK chief

BONN (R) — Germany has arrested an alleged Kurdish separatist leader suspected of organising attacks on Turkish targets in Germany, authorities said on Monday. A German court approved prosecutors' request and issued an arrest warrant for the 45-year-old Dutch national of Kurdish extraction, identified only as Mehmet A., the federal prosecutor's office in Karlsruhe said. The man was detained in the southwestern German city of Stuttgart last week on suspicion of belonging to a "terrorist" organisation. It said the suspect was in charge of operations in the Stuttgart area for the Kurdish Labour Party (PKK).

# Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation.

جordan Times يومية سياسية تصدر باللغة العربية



## Palestinian population 4.6m in 17 years

EXCLUSED JERUSALEM (AP) — The Palestinian population in the West Bank and Gaza Strip will double to 4.6 million in less than a generation because of a high birth rate and the return of thousands of exiles, Palestinian officials said Monday. A report issued by the Palestinian Bureau of Statistics (PBS) shows that in recent years, more Palestinians have returned to the West Bank and Gaza Strip than left the area. "Now, we have a reversing trend," said Hassan Abu Libdeh, director general of PBS. He said that since Palestinian self-rule began in May in the Gaza Strip and of Jenin, some 80,000 Palestinians returned from exile. Mr. Abu Libdeh said he expected 50,000 Palestinians to return from abroad every year. Some 250,000 Palestinians who live abroad have maintained their right to residency in the West Bank and Gaza. From 1967 to 1992, some 325,000 Palestinians had left the West Bank and Gaza, according to the report. The report estimated the population in the West Bank and Gaza at 2.3 million. The Palestinian researchers started out with figures provided by the Israeli bureau of statistics which put the population at slightly more than two million.

Price: Jordan 150 fils

AMMAN TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 1995, RAMADAN 28, 1415



His Majesty King Hussein on Monday receives Arab League Secretary-General Esmaat Abdul Meguid (Petra photo)

## King meets Abdul Meguid, reiterates willingness to help advance peace talks

AMMAN (I.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein on Monday reiterated Jordan's principled stand on the Middle East peace process and stressed the Kingdom's endeavour to achieve just, lasting and comprehensive peace in the region.

During a meeting with Dr. Abdul Meguid was received by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan in the presence of Mr. Kabariti.

Prince Hassan discussed with Dr. Abdul Meguid obstacles in the way of Arab coordination and stressed that Jordan would continue to support peace negotiations on other Arab-Israeli tracks to achieve that end and to enable the peoples of the region to achieve progress and prosperity.

Dr. Abdul Meguid voiced appreciation of the King's efforts to achieve peace and attempts to settle Arab differences and unify the ranks of the Arab Nation through dialogue.

He stressed the need to activate the role of the Arab League to enable it to carry out its duties and to stand up to challenges facing it.

The Arab League secretary-general also underlined the importance of Jordan's pursuit to achieve peace in the region.

The meeting was attended by Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qasem, Foreign

Minister Abdul Karim Al Kabariti and Arab League Assistant Secretary-General Ahmad Adel.

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## Jordan welcomes Riyadh agreement

AMMAN (I.T.) — Jordan on Monday welcomed the signing in Riyadh on Sunday of a declaration of principles between Saudi Arabia and Yemen mapping out steps to settle a 60-year border dispute between them.

Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti said in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that Jordan "believes that Arab border disputes should be resolved within the framework of the self-rule accord signed on Monday."

Mr. Kabariti voiced hope that the declaration of principles would be "a step in the right direction on the way to resolving the border dispute between the two countries, especially that this dispute might have threatened regional stability and security."

Jordan, the foreign minister said, "welcomes and supports this step and hopes that dialogue between Yemen and Saudi Arabia would continue to reach a final solution of the dispute."

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## PLO could freeze peace talks with Israel — Abbas

ABU DHABI (Agencies) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) might freeze autonomy talks with Israel at a meeting in Tunis next month but this could be beneficial to their peace deal, one of the architects of the self-rule accord said on Monday.

Foreign Minister Mahmoud Abbas said security matters had been the main reason for the impasse in the negotiations to implement the remaining points of the historic self-rule agreement.

"The Palestinian leadership could decide on stopping the negotiations with Israel in order to assess what has been achieved and identify obstacles and means needed to resume the talks in a right way," he told the official United Arab Emirates (UAE) news agency WAM during a visit.

"Even if this decision was taken, it will not be wrong nor does it mean a boycott. There is no going back on the road which we have taken."

Mr. Abbas, who led the Palestinians in the secret autonomy talks with Israel in Oslo, boycotted a meeting of the Executive Committee in Cairo last week to discuss the future of the negotiations. The committee is to meet again in Tunis in early March.

He said Israel wanted the Palestinian National Authority to move to the next stage of autonomy, that is redeployment and elections.

Mr. Abbas has refused to redeploy his army outside Palestinian population centres to allow elections to go ahead until he feels the PNA is taking strong enough action to prevent extremism.

"Peace Now spent an hour with the premier to explain the call to dismantle 26 of the 130 settlements, including the one in Hebron and two around Jenin."

"This plan could get the peace process out of stalemate," the movement's Tsali Reshef told a press conference.

"It will allow the government to move to the next stage of autonomy, that is redeployment and elections."

Mr. Rabin has refused to redeploy his army outside Palestinian population centres to allow elections to go ahead until he feels the PNA is taking strong enough action to prevent extremism.

Mr. Abbas signed the 1993 accord on the White House lawn for the PLO.

He was speaking during a visit to the UAE. Palestinian officials are visiting Western and Arab countries to explain why peace talks with Israel are deadlocked.

Mr. Abbas declined to

elaborate on how the United States, the main sponsor of the faltering Middle East peace process, ought to act.

"They must look into that," he said.

In occupied Jerusalem, Israel's leading peace movement on Monday presented Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin with plans to remove small settlements from the West Bank in a bid to unblock negotiations with the Palestinians.

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Mr. Rabin has refused to redeploy his army outside Palestinian population centres to allow elections to go ahead until he feels the PNA is taking strong enough action to prevent extremism.

Peace Now's interim plan would give the authority control over more than 90 per cent of the Palestinian population and evacuate one per cent of the settlers.

(Continued on page 7)

## Iraq dismisses threat of U.S. veto of moves to end sanctions

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraq on Monday dismissed a threat by U.S. Ambassador Madeleine Albright that Washington may veto moves to ease U.N. sanctions saying it would step up efforts to lift the embargo.

The Arab Peninsula neighbours dispute three provinces bordering northwest Yemen assigned to Saudi control by a treaty in 1934.

Tension on the border has spilled over into violence with several armed clashes, the latest on January 10 when more than 30 people were killed, according to diplomats.

Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Bouez Monday called on the U.N. Security Council, the Arab League and influential powers to intervene with Israel to lift the blockade and aggression."

If the Beiruti authorities stop the attacks against our communities in the north, our army will leave southern Lebanon and we will be able to reach a peace agreement in two days," Mr. Gure said on Thursday.

Syrian President Hafez Al Assad welcomed the signing of the Saudi-Yemeni accord, an official spokesman said on Monday.

He said the agreement opened a new, positive chapter in inter-Arab relations and proved that Arabs have a strong will to overcome marginal disputes."

He is accompanied by a large delegation of Russian deputies and businessmen.

Walking in his hotel lobby over a mosaic portrait of former U.S. President George Bush, Mr. Zhirinovsky smiled broadly as he left Baghdad's smartest hotel; the

said after meeting Czech Foreign Minister Josef Zidek.

"I think that those who have intentions of moving this in a premature way will desist once they see that we have not only the blocking seven (votes) but probably a majority of the council on this very important issue," he said.

Ms. Albright said in Prague on Monday that Washington had enough support on the Security Council to block any move to ease sanctions on Iraq.

In

## Shin Bet embroiled in wiretap scandal

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israel's Shin Bet security service is embroiled in scandal for allegedly tipping off a senior politician under investigation that his telephone was tapped.

Attorney-General Michael Ben-Yair was reported Sunday to be investigating the charges, after Police Minister Moshe Shahal said he was worried about other possible cases of interference.

The publicity reflected an unprecedented degree of scrutiny about an agency once worshipped as a guardian angel of Israeli security. Its very existence was once a state secret.

The scandal emerged last week during the corruption trial of former Interior Minister Arye Dery, who is accused of illegally funneling money to religious councils in the early 1990s.

Prosecution witness Yaakov Shmelevitz, a former associate of the defendant, said Mr. Dery and others knew they were on a list of police wiretaps because Shin Bet agents leaked them the information in 1991.

Top Israeli officials clammed for an investigation.

"If there is a leak it is a sensitive area of this type... this obligates us to know," Mr. Shahal said. "There could be a much more serious problem: that this is not an isolated past incident."

Communications Minister Shlomo Aloni said the revelations were "horrible and shocking, totally opposed to proper government."

Israeli media reported Mr. Ben-Yair was "looking into" the charges but had not decided yet about a full-fledged inquiry. He was not available for comment.

It was not the first time that the Shin Bet was under fire, but the first in years linking it to political scandal.

Exposure of the Shin Bet used to be strictly forbidden by Israel's military censor. The censors have been eased since 1984, when the agency was criticised after two agents were accused of covering up the beating deaths of two Palestinian bus hijackers. Shin Bet head

Avraham Shalom was forced to resign.

A subsequent inquiry commission headed by Supreme Court Justice Moshe Landau severely chastised the Shin Bet in 1987 for more than 16 years of systematic perjury, and demanded a housecleaning.

Mr. Landau also stirred controversy by authorising a so-called use of "moderate physical pressure" against Palestinian detainees.

A top security official, speaking on condition of anonymity, told the Associated Press agency activities have been under tight controls ever since, and that it has been more open to the media.

"It's better to give out information than have it leak out partially and inaccurately," he said.

"It is becoming more and more open," admitted Uri Avneri, a former liberal lawmaker and prominent editor, recalling the commotion raised in the 1950s when his Haolam Hazeh weekly first reported on Shin Bet, referring to it as "the dark apparatus."

Another sign of the new openness was unprecedented public debate about the security chief who was sworn in at a closed-door ceremony.

The new chief, who may only be referred to as K., is an expert on Israeli extremism.

Two top Shin Bet officials resigned in protest of the appointment, while Jewish settlers in the West Bank complained that he would target them more than Palestinians.

A copy of K.'s 1990 master's thesis at Haifa University, obtained by the Associated Press, discloses his concerns about the settlers.

"The ideological crimes of the extreme right are a direct and real threat to Israeli law and Israel's existence as a democratic and free state," the paper said.

"Israel's society and government not only fail to defend themselves against this activity, but are reconciled to it," it added.

## U.S. Jewish leaders want embassy moved to Jerusalem

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — Top American Jewish leaders on Sunday said the United States should move its embassy from Tel Aviv to occupied Jerusalem.

"We believe the American embassy belongs to Jerusalem," said Malcolm Hoenlein, vice chairman of the visiting Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, the top body representing U.S. Jews.

Conference Chairman Lester Pollack said there was "a movement" within the U.S. government to move the embassy.

"The American Jewish community has been uninvolved... that Jerusalem is the eternal capital of Israel," Pollack said.

Only a handful of countries established embassies in Jerusalem. Most, like the U.S. States, have located their representations in Tel Aviv.

The issue has been occasionally raised by Israel's supporters.

Senators Alfonse D'Amato and Daniel Patrick Moynihan recently drafted an appeal to Secretary of State Warren Christopher urging the embassy be moved.

But senior officials have said Jerusalem's status should be left open until Israel and Palestinians resolve the issue. Talks on the city are to begin by 1996.

Martin Indyk, the U.S. ambassador-designate to Israel, recently warned Congress that recognising Jerusalem as the capital "would explode the peace process and put us out of business as a facilitator."

Leaders of the President's Conference, considered an influential lobby in Washington, too issues relating to Israel, are holding their 40th annual gathering in Israel this week.

Mr. Pollack and Mr. Hoenlein, who met with reporters Sunday, also said they believed the American foreign aid package of some \$3 billion annually to Israel would remain intact.

Mr. Hoenlein said there was a strong consensus in the United States that Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat was not upholding his undertaking to stem Palestinian attacks against Israelis.

He said Mr. Arafat should "make a speech in Arabic to the Palestinian people demanding an end to violence."



A Somali woman who tried to take a mattress from the Mogadishu airport struggles with members of the Somali police. Somali police have been sent to the airport to prevent it from being looted after U.N. troops withdraw in the coming days (AFP photo)

## 855 kilos of hashish seized in Jordan

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordanian anti-narcotics agents have intercepted a large haul of hashish believed to have originated in Lebanon and arrested three Jordanians in connection with the foiled smuggling effort, security sources said Monday.

They confirmed a report in the local press which said the haul, of 855 kilograms, was concealed in secret compartments in a truck that arrived from Lebanon through Syria.

The interception took place last Thursday after officers of the Anti-Narcotics Bureau, apparently acting upon a tip-off, kept the vehicle under surveillance from the moment it entered Jordanian territory, the report quoted Colonel Nazih Shiredeh, head of the Jordanian anti-narcotics force.

According to local statistics, 1,620 kilogrammes of hashish were seized this year, in addition to five kilogrammes of hashish oil and small quantities of marijuana and heroin. Also seized were a small quantity of stimulant tablets.

The smugglers sought to make use of the relative inactivity in the streets at the time of the usual Ramadan meal for their clandestine de-

livery, but were arrested promptly, Col. Shiredeh was quoted as saying.

The hashish, which was discovered in fake fuel tanks attached to the underbody of the truck, is estimated to cost around JD 350,000 in street value.

According to Col. Shiredeh, the hashish is believed to have originated in Lebanon.

Jordan, where the number of addicts of various drugs are estimated at around 7,000, mostly serves as a transit point for drugs and most of the hauls intercepted by the local drug enforcement officials are destined for neighbouring countries, mainly Saudi Arabia.

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## Somali women march for peace after militia battles

MOGADISHU (R) — Hundreds of Somali women demanding peace held an unprecedented midnight march through the streets of Mogadishu after a battle between rival militias using mortars and anti-aircraft guns.

In a scene Somalis said they had never witnessed in four years of anarchy, crowds of young women in graceful red robes strode right into the battle zone past gangs of armed young men and their "technical" battle wagons.

"No more brother killing brother," they chanted, hours after rival clan militias fought each other outside the gates of the United Nations-controlled airfield where foreign troops were preparing to evacuate the country.

The women tramped over the bloodstains of two bystanders wounded in the crossfire of a battle that raged outside the Al-Safari hotel where journalists in the city take refuge after dusk.

Somali sources said a traffic jam of heavy vehicles trying to enter the gate built up along the road. The vehicles were apparently owned by Usman Atto, Gen. Aideed's former financier and right-hand man.

Mr. Atto, a member of Gen. Aideed's Habre Gedir clan, has now split from his one-time leader. His "technical" later sped down the road towards the airport and dislodged Gen. Aideed's militiamen in the battle that followed.

Somalis said the clashes between sub-factions of Gen. Aideed's clan could reflect an internal crisis in his leadership of the Somali National Alliance (SNA) militia.

Gen. Aideed has made no recent public statements. Somalis say he has gone into hiding in the same maze of streets where he lay low during a U.N. hunt for him in 1993.

## Billiards craze sweeps Gazans

GAZA CITY (AFP) — Billiards may be considered a sign of misspent youth in many parts of the world, but it is the latest craze in Gaza where young men play late into the night with the approval of even Islamic hardliners.

Thousands of hectares were under drug cultivation during the war in a well-managed business that brought in big money for warring militias controlling the trade.

Dozens of U.S. and Italian soldiers are already camped at the U.N.-held airfield, but the bulk of their forces are

leisure authorities and Syrian troops based in the Bekaa Valley have cooperated to suppress drug cultivation since the end of the civil war.

It urged Lebanon to tighten border controls and urged rich donor countries to boost aid to help replace the drugs trade with income-generating occupations.

The end of 1987. It had a reputation for gambling and never reopened.

Now parlours with names such as the Union Club and the Sports Club have sprung up across the Strip.

"The closest we get to betting is when the locals pay for the game, or buy a round of soda," said Mohammad Zarieq, a policeman who returned from Tunis after the start of self-rule in May.

"It's a fine game, it needs calm and concentration," he said as more young men filed into the smoke-filled parlour to wait for their turn.

"I have two employees just to watch for knives, drugs, or gambling," said Asaad Jaraghoun, owner of a cafeteria and billiards room on the outskirts of the Khan Yunis refugee camp in southern Gaza.

"Even some of the younger Hamas members come in for a game — sometimes."

Mr. Jaraghoun said there were 10 more parlours in Khan Yunis which, like his, stayed open until the early hours of the morning before police last month imposed midnight closing.

Catering to low-income customers from the nearby camps, Mr. Jaraghoun charges two shekels a game, one shekel less than in Gaza City.

Still, he said players owed him a total of 4,000 shekels (\$1,300).

"I let the men who have no job pay me later — and they usually do," he said.

Billiards suits people's wallets, especially following repeated Israeli closures of the Strip in the wake of suicide bombings, throwing Palestinians out of work.

### JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

#### PROGRAMME TWO

17:00 ... Le Prince Et La Sirène

17:30 ... Où Le Coeur Des Géants

18:00 ... Envie I'au Tout Fous

18:45 ... News in French

19:30 ... Profiles of the Muslim World

19:50 ... Home Improvement

20:15 ... Road to Ayonics

21:10 ... The Nature Of Things

22:30 ... News in English

22:30 ... Watergate

23:59 ... Feature film: "Blind Witness"

#### PRAYER TIMES

04:44 ... Fajr

06:01 ... (Searched) Dhuhr



**KING HOSTSIFTAR:** His Majesty King Hussein Monday hosts an iftar in honour of Ben Zeid, the King's private chamberlain Ben Zeid, the King's private chamberlain of tribal leaders and representatives of Ali Ben Nayeef, the King's advisor on public and private institutions in Ajloun tribal affairs Sharif Fawwaz Al Zaben, Governorate. The banquet was attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Royal Court. The King and the guests Hassan, Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben performed Al Maghreb prayers together. Shaker, Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Shaker, Royal Court Chief Marwan Al

## Press department director sues Al Majd weekly

AMMAN (J.T.) — The director of the Press and Publications Department, Mohammad Amin, is suing Al Majd weekly for allegedly violating the Press and Publications Law by printing an article that disparages the President of the United Arab Emirates, Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan. The Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported the move said. Mr. Amin is taking the weekly to court for violating Article 40 of the press law that prevents newspapers from publishing articles undermining Jordan's ties with other Arab countries. Petra said the newspaper

was taken to court several times for violating the law, especially in areas harming Jordanian ties with other Arab countries.

In its Monday issue, Al Majd published a front-page article in the form of a Ramaan quiz that it attributed to the UAE president.

The newspaper said it received the one-million-dirham (the UAE's currency) question, "which seems to be written by Sheikh Zayed but most likely circulated by his opponents," via fax.

The newspaper said the quiz was very absurd despite the one-million-dirham prize.

## France issues statement on shooting of envoy

AMMAN (J.T.) — Following is the text of the embassy of France in Amman statement issued Monday on the shooting incident in Wadi Muqib which left a French diplomat seriously wounded last Friday.

The French embassy wishes to highlight the following explanations about the assault last Friday, Feb. 24, on French Embassy Second Secretary Gilles Hein and his wife:

The assault lasted for a period of 20 minutes from 12:30 noon until 12:50.

Mr. and Mrs. Hein were taking photos at the residence overlooking Wadi Muqib, about 100 kilometers south of Amman, when they were attacked by two persons and there was nothing in the way the two French people dressed or behaved that prompted the attack. Mr. and Mrs. Hein were not eating, drinking or smoking and did not carry any foods or drinks.

Geographically, embassy staff members in Jordan know the local customs and are keen to respect them.

The French embassy does not at the present have details about the motives of

the assailants, and the concerned Jordanian authorities are still investigating the incident.

The primary evidence we have (especially that the young married couple were at the place in an unplanned manner) affirm that France or the French interests were not targeted by the attack.

Mr. Hein underwent

primary checkups and X-rays

at Madaba Hospital and then was transported by a Jordanian Armed Forces helicopter to Al Hussein Medical Centre. He then underwent a highly-professional, six-hour surgery there. The medical care he received at the centre was exceptional and Mr. Hein is no more in danger and is currently recuperating at the centre.

The Jordanian authorities have showed interest in

the case of Mr. and Mrs. Hein and towards the French embassy throughout the ordeal.

This manifests the friendship relations existing between the two countries.

The French community in Jordan was moved by all the solidarity initiatives taken

and expressed by several Jordanian citizens.

## HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

### Crescent moon to mark end of Ramadan

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Chief Islamic Justice Sheikh Izzedin Al Khatib Al Tamimi Monday issued a statement calling on the public to watch for the crescent (new moon) for the month of Shawal of 1415 Hijri year which falls on Wednesday March 1, 1995. The new moon marks the end of the holy month of Ramadan. The statement called on whoever spots the new moon to report it to any Sharia court as all such courts will be open until evening of that day. Should the moon be spotted on Wednesday, the next day would mark the first day of Eid Al Fitr.

### Supply ministry officers to stay open during Eid

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Supply Monday announced that its offices will remain open in various governorates during the Eid Al Fitr holiday except for the first day. It said that any violation or acts of profiteering by the merchants and traders could be reported to these offices and prompt action would be taken against the violators of ministry regulations.

### Rawabdeh, Oman envoy discuss education

AMMAN (Petra) — Deputy Premier and Minister of Education Abdul Raouf Rawabdeh conferred in his office Monday with Omani ambassador to Jordan Mohammad Ben Sultan Al Bousaid on educational cooperation. The minister told the ambassador that Jordan was ready to second teachers from the Ministry of Education to work in Omani schools. He also briefed the ambassador on plans under way for overhauling the educational system in the country.

### Britain presents equipment to PSD

AMMAN (Petra) — British Ambassador Peter Hinchcliff Monday presented the Public Security Department (PSD) with a collection of equipment used in combating illicit drug trade. The gift was presented to PSD Director Lieutenant General Abdul Rahman Al Udwani who voiced Jordan's appreciation. According to Lt. Gen. Udwani, the new equipment will enable police to uncover drugs hidden in vehicles. The ambassador said Britain appreciates the PSD's efforts in combating drug trafficking.

## Israel tries to expel PNA policeman to Jordan

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan on Monday refused to accept a Palestinian security officer whom Israel wanted to expel to the Kingdom across the King Hussein Bridge, and the fate of the man remained unclear.

Israeli media reported that Mohammad Jamil Issawi, a member of the Palestinian police force in autonomous Gaza Strip and Jericho, was brought to the bridge across the Jordan River on Monday, but that the Jordanian government refused to allow him entry.

No comment was immediately available from Jordanian authorities on the affair late Monday. It was believed that the man remained on the Israeli-controlled side of the King Hussein Bridge crossing. Officials have said in the past that Jordan would not

let Israel deport Palestinians to Jordanian territory. This Jordanian stand prompted Israel to turn to Lebanon as the dumping ground for expelled Palestinians.

Palestinian Ambassador to Jordan Omar Khatib said Jordan had informed Israel that it would not accept the policeman.

"The Israelis should hand him over to the Palestinian (National) Authority" in Gaza and Jericho, Mr. Khatib told the Jordan Times. "Jordan has nothing to do with the man."

Ahmad Qouriea, minister of economy in the PNA, described the Israeli attempt to expel the man to Jordan as a violation of the autonomy accord between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Mr. Issawi was arrested by Israeli security forces on

Jan. 16 at a military checkpoint between Israel and the Gaza Strip.

According to PLO officials quoted in agency reports from occupied Jerusalem, Mr. Issawi was carrying a forged identity card and was suspected by Israel of attacking alleged Palestinian collaborators.

Israel says Mr. Issawi, who once served on PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat's elite Force 17, later joined a more militant wing of Mr. Arafat's Fatah movement known as the Western Sector, which is blacklisted by Israel.

Security sources said Israel had turned down a request by the Palestinian National Authority to let 400 members of the force, now residing in Jordan, return to the self-rule areas.

Palestinian officials had said after Mr. Issawi's arrest that his expulsion could set a bad precedent for thousands of other PLO officials now living in Gaza and Jericho.

Thousands of PLO fighters, retrained as policemen, returned to police the self-rule areas after Israel handed them over to the

PNA last May.

Israeli radio said Israel refused an offer from the Palestinian Authority to take him into the self-rule areas.

The army refused to confirm or deny the report.

The radio did not specify the charges held against Mr. Issawi.

Colonel Jibril Rajoub, secret police chief in the self-rule enclave of Jericho, denied Mr. Issawi was a member of the Palestinian police force and said he entered the territories on a tourist visa.

A senior Jordanian official said later Saturday: "I can confirm that this man neither crossed the bridge yesterday nor today (Monday)."

"On top of that, we were neither approached by the Palestinians nor by the Israelis on the subject," Reuter quoted the official as saying.

## Father, daughter found dead after 10 days — authorities

By Rama Husseini Special to the Jordan Times

ZARQA — The decomposed bodies of a 75-year-old man and his daughter were discovered Sunday by their landlord, police and Civil Defence Department (CDD) reports said.

An autopsy revealed that Abdul Kader Hassan and his 20-year-old daughter, Amal, died of carbon monoxide poisoning; authorities estimated that the deaths occurred about 10 days ago, the reports said.

A police official told the Jordan Times Monday that the inhalation of fumes from a kerosene stove was believed to be the cause of the death.

"We found Mr. Hassan's body in the bathroom, and his daughter's in her bedroom," the police official said.

A next-door neighbour told the Jordan Times that Mr. Hassan used to sit outside the house every day, "but all of a sudden he disappeared."

CDD statistics for 1994

"I used to see him every day sitting on a chair watching us play, but we stopped seeing him ten days ago," Ahmad Silawi, a neighbour, told the Jordan Times, adding that Mr. Hassan's daughter was mentally ill, and she seldom left the house.

A close relative of the family told the Jordan Times that Mr. Hassan moved to the area five years ago after he had an argument with his son about his daughter.

"Abdul Kader's sons wanted him to send his daughter to an orphanage because she was mentally ill, but he refused and preferred to live with his daughter alone," said the relative.

Police officials had said that the child had been sodomised and was strangled to death.

"At this point we have nothing to reveal about the case, we are still investigating the incident and when we apprehend the killers we will inform the media," a police official told the Jordan Times Monday.

AMMAN (AP) — The United States and Jordan Monday signed an agreement under which Washington will lend Amman \$15 million to finance a purchase of wheat and corn from U.S. sources.

Minister of Finance Basel Jardaneh and U.S. Ambassador to Jordan Wesley W. Egan sign a loan for wheat purchases U.S. (Petra photo)

## U.S. lends Jordan \$15m to buy grain

AMMAN (AP) — The United States and Jordan Monday signed an agreement under which Washington will lend Amman \$15 million to finance a purchase of wheat and corn from U.S. sources.

A U.S. embassy statement said the agreement was signed by Finance Minister Basel Jardaneh and U.S. Ambassador Wesley W. Egan.

The credit will be used to buy 60,000 tonnes of wheat and 45,000 tonnes of corn, the statement said.

The loan, which carries two per cent interest for the first seven years and three per cent thereafter, will be repaid in 24 annual installments beginning in 2002.

The \$15 million loan will be deposited in an interest-bearing account in the Central Bank of Jordan, and the income generated will be spent on agricultural development projects initially agreed upon by the government of Jordan and the United States government, the statement said.

## Iraqi, Jordanian parliamentarians discuss embargo, coordination

AMMAN (J.T.) — A visiting Iraqi parliamentary delegation and two Lower House deputies Monday addressed issues related to the U.N. embargo on Iraq and coordination between Arab parliaments.

Mr. Hiti commended the Jordanian stand vis-a-vis Arab causes and echoed Mr. Lawzi's views that the Arab parliaments ought to unify their stand and jointly confront problems facing the nation.

Addressing the speaker of the Lower House, Sa'd Hayel Sour, Mr. Hiti reviewed current efforts to end inter-Arab differences and the role of the Arab parliaments at regional and international levels to serve the pan-Arab causes.

He also discussed with Mr. Sour ways for promoting Jordanian-Iraqi cooperation in parliamentary affairs.

Following the meetings, Mr. Hiti told Jordan Television that Baghdad supported Jordan's drive to coordinate the stands of Arab countries' parliaments.

He said the Jordanian leadership has always adopted a moderate and balanced strategy in its relations with the other Arab countries — something appreciated by the Iraqi government and people.

## Tourism team to participate in Berlin travel conference

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan will take part in a five-day international conference on travel and tourism next month in a bid to promote the marketing of its tourist attractions, according to the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities.

The conference, held in Berlin on March 4, is an annual event, which is considered one of the most significant specialised world gatherings and is normally attended by most countries of the world and numerous travel and tourist firms and tour operators in addition to world airlines, world transport companies and hotels, said the official in a statement Monday.

On the sidelines of the conference, the ministry will organise a special wine

signed to introduce the visitors and the conference on Jordan's tourism and archaeological attractions.

The Jordanian delegation will present documentary films and slide shows and will distribute leaflets and brochures depicting Jordanian attractions, said the official.

According to the ministry, Germany is considered one of the major European markets for Jordanian tourism. It said nearly 35,000 German tourists visited the Kingdom during 1994.

AMMAN — Concerned with what it sees as the rising drug abuse and drug trafficking problem, the Amman-based Council of Islamic Organisations and Societies in Jordan (CIOS) Monday distributed an 11-point proposal to Arab and foreign diplomatic missions in Jordan aimed at curtailing the serious consequences of drug misuse on society.

It aims to enrich these highly specialised areas of universities which are present in this geographic region and to promote interdisciplinary post-graduate training, he added.

UNIMED's statement said Dr. Mahadin is based on both the mobility and the exchange of human and cultural resources, and it ensures a constant flow of information and steady relations among the participating universities.

This contributes to the ongoing process of integration between Europe and the Mediterranean area, he said.

Besides its central office in Rome, UNIMED has branch offices in Rahat, Malta, Cairo, and Montpellier. New offices will shortly be opened in Lyon and Tunis, said Dr. Mahadin.

Together with the University of Jordan, the organisation of a three-day workshop in Amman is currently planned. This workshop is entitled "The Development in Industrial and Agricultural Fields."

The office shall look into possibilities of cooperation between the various campus communities of the Mediterranean region, and shall contribute to increasing the involvement of faculty, researchers, students, and administrative staff of the UI.

Speaking about UNIMED, Dr. Mahadin said, UNIMED, which was founded in 1991 under the auspices of the University of Rome "La Sapienza", is an association of 51 universities from countries bordering the Mediterranean.

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Workers and dismissed those found involved in drug.

7- Allocating large financial rewards to those who cooperate with the authorities in foiling drug trafficking attempts.

8- Issuing an international warning to countries growing plants used for illicit drugs.

9- Confiscating lands used for growing such plants.

10- Exchanging information among countries on means of combating drug problems.

11- Inflicting heavy punishments on firms that manufacture or sell such illicit drugs.

The memorandum accompanying in the 11-point proposal coincided with the release Monday of a report by

## WHAT'S GOING ON EXHIBITIONS

★ Display of Bani Hamida new designs of rugs at the Bani Hamida House, Jabal Amman (Tel. 658696).

Exhibition of oil paintings by Salim Ibrahim at Al Bayraq Art Gallery, Sports City intersection (Tel. 688701).

Exhibition of handicrafts by Hasmig Kuyumjian at the Royal Cultural Centre.

Photo exhibition at the Friends of Archaeology Centre.

Young America exhibit with photographs featuring Americans of all ages at the American Centre

## South African government to crack down on lawlessness

### ANC creates disciplinary committee

PRETORIA (Agencies) — President Nelson Mandela read the riot act to criminals, announcing plans to crack down on violent crime and lawlessness after a meeting here with security top brass.

After being briefed on the security situation in the country, Mr. Mandela said in a statement that police would develop a "concrete plan" to address violence, particularly in KwaZulu-Natal, Gauteng and Western Cape provinces.

Extra police backed up by the army will be immediately deployed in trouble spots and "the removal" of illegal weapons will receive "urgent priority," including measures to increase security at borders to stop the flow of weapons into the country.

This, Mr. Mandela said, was a "first step."

"The government needs to firmly deal with crime and lawlessness," he said, urging all South Africans to "help nip in the bud" trends that could scupper the implementation of the reconstruction and development programme to rectify the wrongs

of apartheid.

As Mr. Mandela announced the plans, new statistics released by the police revealed that 38 people were murdered over the weekend in Gauteng province (the greater Johannesburg area) alone.

Although the security meeting convenes regularly, a crisis sparked by the Inkatha Freedom Party's (IFP) walk-out last Tuesday was also in the agenda. Mr. Mandela's spokesman, Parks Mankahlana, said:

Present at the meeting were Deputy President F.W. De Klerk, Defence Minister Jve Mndisi, Safety and Security Minister Sydney Mufamadi, intelligence head Bhe Nhlanhla and army and police top brass.

Mr. Mandela was reportedly concerned at the effect of the IFP row on the security situation in KwaZulu-Natal, where some 10,000 people have been killed since 1987 in bitter rivalry between the IFP and ANC.

The government, along with the rest of society, is acutely concerned about so-

cial stability, investor confidence and, above all, the need to protect the lives of all South Africans," Mr. Mandela's statement said.

The meeting took place against the background of increasingly violent protests by prisoners, soldiers and policemen and a recent trend by demonstrators to take hostages to force their demands.

In the former Transkei tribal homeland this weekend soldiers engaged in a gunbattle with disgruntled policemen who blockaded the Eastern Cape province town of Umtata with trucks, cars and minibuses to demand better pay.

Two policemen were injured in the skirmish and another 15 surrendered.

The prima facie followed a pay dispute at a military base outside Johannesburg when mutinous soldiers clashed with the military police who had been sent in to quell the protest. One soldier was injured.

At an Eastern Cape prison Sunday, a special police task force early Sunday stormed a prison cell and freed a warden

who had been held hostage for 72 hours by armed prisoners demanding their immediate release.

Meanwhile the ANC moved to shore up its image Sunday, naming a high-ranking committee to investigate a string of charges of corruption and lack of discipline against some of its most prominent members.

The African National Congress' decision-making National Executive Committee named no names, but Winnie Mandela could be among the first brought before the disciplinary board it established after meeting all weekend. Mrs. Mandela is a member of the committee but did not attend the meeting despite orders to do so from President Mandela — her estranged husband.

Instead, Mrs. Mandela, who is deputy minister of arts, culture and science in her husband's cabinet, was travelling in West Africa, she told Mr. Mandela she could not cancel her visit on short notice because it would offend governments who had invited her.

Divided into brilliant marching units of brown, green, pink and blue, the hammering shock the reviewing stand and deafened spectators.

Female dancers dressed only in G-string, high heels and sequins gyrated and writhed on floats and twisted for television camera crews broadcasting the dusk-to-dawn parade live.

The Beija Flor School, paying tribute to 93-year-old former opera singer Bidu Sayao, swirled down the course led by a 40-foot-high (13-metre-high) white float depicting dozens of angels blowing trumpets and singing, "shaking the walkway, that's excitement."

Rio's carnival parades began with complaints that the pre-lenten festival was shunning its roots in Brazil's poor black and mulatto population by featuring floats with blonde performers in place of dark-skinned ones.

Replacing the black or mulatto dancers of previous years, several of the samba schools, entered in this year's glittering carnival competition are featuring near-

## Rio carnival explodes into life

RIO DE JANEIRO (R) — Rio de Janeiro's carnival exploded into life late Sunday with a thundering wave of sound and colour.

Brazil's biggest celebration kicked off with fireworks shattering the tropical sky and thousands of glittering dancers twirling to a pulsing samba beat.

"Brazil, feet on the ground, never lose hope to see your life better," sang the 3,000 whirling and brilliantly bedecked dancers from the Sao Clemente Samba School as they shuffled down the specially built Sambadrome.

The school, one of 18 competing for a championship on Sunday and Monday nights, roused the 70,000 onlookers to a roar with hundreds of feathered and sequined drummers.

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A participant in the Rio carnival, carrying a replica of Brazil's 1994 Soccer World Cup trophy, dances in the street. Some 300,000 foreign tourists are reportedly expected to visit Rio de Janeiro during the annual carnival which ends Wednesday (AP photo)

naked blond actresses and models.

The increasing switch to blondes and fair-skinned women has infuriated such carnival veterans as Leci Brandao, a 50-year-old black singer and feminist.

She says the samba schools are ignoring carnival's roots among poor blacks and mulattoes. Instead, they put blondes on their parade floats to get more publicity from television networks covering the pre-lenten festival.

"There's going to be a face-off between traditionalists and brown-noses there on the avenue," she told

Vega newsmagazine.

The chief object of Mr. Brandao's ire is Monique Evans, an athletic model with close-cropped blond hair described by Vega as the "android debutante" of the Uniao Da Ilha Samba School.

Even though the group is mostly made up of black and mulatto Rio residents, school director Paulo Cesar De Sa told Reuters the choice of Evans was a logical one.

"She's a beautiful person, a dancer, and she's part of the Umaro family," he said. "And her costume didn't cost much, it's minimal."

## China dissidents stage bold comeback

BEIJING (AFP) — As the annual parliamentary session approaches, China's neutralised dissident movement is making a bold come-back to demand social justice, an end to corruption and extensive democratic reforms.

The calls come despite an intensive crackdown over the past year, with massive police sweeps in Beijing, Shanghai and elsewhere, leaving numerous activists — including China's most famous dissident Wei Jingchong — in prison and all but silencing his country's dissident voices.

Two other groups of dissidents have this week exercised their right under the constitution to petition the National People's Congress (NPC), which is to hold its annual plenary session here in early March.

Similar petitions calling for widespread democratic reforms were submitted to the NPC's last annual session, fuelling the government's resolve to mop up the bad

revolutionary" role in the 1979 Democracy Wall Movement, called Monday for the party to end its autocratic rule and permit elections under a democratic constitution.

Recognising this was unlikely, he said it may be impossible to avoid a situation where "all kinds of nationwide democratic forces unite together and use all kinds of non-violent measures to force the party to

give up one-party autocracy in order to realise a smooth transition to democratic society."

Mr. Xu also called on the party to rehabilitate those involved in the 1989 Democracy Movement "... bloodily suppressed on June 4 that year and followed by the detention of thousands of people — punish widespread corruption, strengthen the rule of law and achieve equality between all nationalities.

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Recognising this was unlikely, he said it may be impossible to avoid a situation where "all kinds of nationwide democratic forces unite together and use all kinds of non-violent measures to force the party to

recognise the right of the NPC to make a political reform.

Some 26 prominent dissidents and intellectuals — including 1989 democracy movement student leaders Wang Dan, Ma Shaojun and Ma Shaofang — sent a formal petition Monday to the Chinese parliament, decrying the "extremely backward" human rights situation in China.

Many of the dissidents who participated in this week's appeals, including Xu Wenli, Wang Dan and Chen Ziming, have remained under heavy police surveillance since their releases from prison.

## Gorbachev looks back over decade of perestroika

MOSCOW (AFP) — Freedom of speech, free elections, the end of Cold War: Mikhail Gorbachev is well aware of the gains made by the perestroika he launched in March 1985, and still thinks his political strategy could have continued to develop in easy stages.

Perestroika (reconstruction) showed the whole world Soviet society undergoing a deep restructuring.

"But you can find it already in the works of Lenin," remarks Gorbachev during an interview in his office in the Gorbachev Foundation here where he receives a steady stream of visiting politicians, business men and journalists.

But it is Gorbachev himself who will go down in the history books as the "father" of perestroika, unwittingly crafting the breakup of the Soviet Union and the emergence of a new Russia.

"The policy was not supposed to result in destruction right down to the very foundations," he said, looking back to the death of Soviet communism.

"At the beginning, just like Khrushchev, I thought we could keep the existing (political) system and that we simply ought to make it conform to the ideas of Lenin."

Nikita Khrushchev initiated the thaw of the 1960s after Stalin's death and earned a niche in history as an innovator, albeit as one who could be as notorious as he was vociferous.

Mr. Gorbachev says now he went further than he wanted to.

"I did not understand until after the summer of 1988 that it was a mistake and that one could get out of that political system."

Democratic ideas went galloping ahead of him and after granting freedom of expression he had to be constantly

"running to keep up with the wave of liberalisation he had

started.

He thinks the current leadership is far from pursuing a democratic agenda.

"What is happening today is the negation of perestroika," he insists.

"They are acquisitions which are still there and can withstand even being crushed by tank tracks," he says with great conviction.

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## Adams to Major: Face-to-face talks the inevitable next step

DUBLIN, Ireland (AP) — Sinn Fein leader Gerry Adams demanded Sunday that British Prime Minister John Major meet him face to face as an inevitable next step in Northern Ireland's peace process.

Mr. Adams told reporters, at the end of the IRA-supporting party's two-day conference at Dublin's Mansion House, that he expected Sinn Fein to be allowed to enter negotiations "just like any other Irish political party."

"It's only a matter of when," Mr. Adams said, noting that the leaders of all other parties had already had private meetings with Mr. Major.

Civil servants from Britain's Northern Ireland Office began preliminary talks with the Catholic-based party in mid-December, 100 days after the Irish Republican Army's (IRA) Sept. 1 ceasefire.

This month's meeting, however, was called off after Sinn Fein security agents thought they detected an electronic listening device in one of their negotiating rooms.

Last week Mr. Major and Irish Prime Minister John Bruton launched the two government's complex "framework document" outlining a possible political settlement for the British-ruled

province. The Anglo-Irish package suggests establishing government bodies to coordinate policy between the north and independent south.

Pro-British Protestant politicians have criticised the plans while Sinn Fein, which gets about 11 per cent of the Northern Ireland vote, has welcomed them as indicating British preference for the gradual reunification of Ireland.

Sir Patrick Mayhew, Britain's chief official in Northern Ireland, earlier told the BBC that Sinn Fein couldn't go farther along the negotiating trail until it secured a commitment from the IRA to hand its weapons.

"If somebody comes to the negotiating table with other constitutional parties but is known to have Semtex (explosive), ground-to-air missiles, heavy machine guns, mortars and so on, the implication is absolutely inescapable that they are prepared to resort to former violence if they don't get what they want round the table," Sir Patrick said.

Sir Patrick said there was no hope of getting Northern Ireland's pro-Britain "unionist" politicians from the Protestant majority to sit down alongside Sinn Fein so long as the IRA retains its capacity to strike.

But Sinn Fein leaders made clear Sunday that, as

far as it was concerned, the next meeting with British civil servants would be its last, and that they had to discuss the Anglo-Irish peace proposals with Mr. Major and Sir Patrick directly.

"The time for hiding behind their civil servants has gone," Martin McGuinness, Sinn Fein's No. 2 official and the leader of its talks team, told the conference.

Mr. McGuinness dismissed the British civil servants' demand for the IRA to disarm as "without either logic or validity."

"We told them, just in case the reality had escaped them, that the British government and the British army had not defeated the IRA, that the IRA had not surrendered, and that the British government could not even remotely expect Sinn Fein to deliver that surrender for them," he said.

The outlawed paramilitary group has extensive stocks of guns and explosives, mostly buried in bunkers in the Irish Republic.

Other speakers emphasised other demands of the Sinn Fein-IRA movement: The disbandment of the Royal Ulster Constabulary (RUC), Northern Ireland's predominantly Protestant police force, and the speedy release of nearly 600 IRA prisoners in both parts of Ireland and in England.



Sinn Fein leader Gerry Adams signs autographs on the second day of the group's annual congress in Dublin (AFP photo)

Britain says the RUC should be reformed to make it more acceptable to Catholic nationalists, while there would be no general amnesty for IRA prisoners.

## Pakistan police arrest 50 suspected militants

KARACHI (Agencies) — Police have arrested at least 50 suspected Muslim militants in connection with sectarian violence and searched for additional suspects Monday in this troubled port city.

The suspects belong to hardline Sunni and Shi'ite Muslim groups that have been linked to the escalating sectarian feud in Karachi, the country's largest city.

More than 30 people were gunned down in Karachi over the weekend, including 22 who died in shootings at mosques.

Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has vowed to crack-down on the sectarian strife, but citizens have little confidence in her government or the police force.

"The government administration in Karachi has collapsed," said Jamil Yousef, cochairman of the Police-Citizens Liaison Committee, a private group that assists law enforcement officers.

"The killings could have been stopped had the government taken some preventive measures," he said of the weekend slaughter.

The city was still tense Monday, but most businesses were open and operating normally. Police and paramilitary forces patrolled the streets and continued to search for suspects.

The 50 that were arrested

Sunday were undergoing questioning, police said. They belong to either Sipah-e-Sabah, a Sunni group, or Tehrik-E-Jafria, a Shi'ite faction.

The two factions have been fighting for the past year, leaving hundreds dead. The conflict is one of several ongoing battles in Karachi, where religious, political and ethnic fighting has claimed well over 1,000 lives since the beginning of 1994.

Sipah-e-Sabah is led by Azam Tariq, a fiery orator and a member of parliament who went into hiding last week shortly before the government issued a warrant for his arrest on murder charges.

A U.S. embassy spokesman denied a newspaper report that they were on their way to the United States, saying: "That's nonsense."

Danish Foreign Minister Niels Helweg Petersen said Sunday his country was prepared to offer asylum to the two Christians.

"Any problem with raising money for the plane ticket can easily be solved," Mr. Petersen told Danish Radio.

The 14-year-old Salamat Masih cannot go back to his village and it is probably too dangerous for him to stay in Pakistan. He must be brought to safety abroad," the boy's lawyer Hina Jilani told Dabash Radio.

About 100 Pakistani human rights activists staged a

## Surviving in Grozny — a test of endurance and wits

GROZNY, Russia (AFP) — Surviving in the ruins of this war-battered Chechen capital has become a supreme test of the endurance skills and wits of the 100,000 residents officially still living here after 11 weeks of war.

The Russian military doles out small rations to residents, and soldiers sometimes add donations out of their own supplies. But there is no running water or power, and normal life seems a distant memory.

Many Chechen residents of Grozny, however, tell a different story of Russian soldiers running amok — looting, beating people up and sometimes murdering them.

The Russian authorities admitted last week that Russian military prosecutors in Grozny have charged servicemen with theft, robbery and looting following severe incidents.

The charges were the first reported by the authorities since Russian forces began attacking Grozny over the New Year's weekend.

They finally took control of most of the city in mid-February after an intense campaign of bombing and shelling that sent many thousands of refugees streaming away to neighboring communities.

Many returned in mid-February during a seven-day ceasefire to reclaim their right shoulder because, says a Russian guard. "We have to make sure that they are not rebel soldiers. If they are, they will have a mark on their right shoulder from carrying a firearm."

A Russian journalist arrived in Nazran Sunday after escaping from the southern suburbs of Grozny on foot — bringing with her a girl aged 11 and a message: Stop shooting. There are only civilians here."

My house any more and that I should get out," she said.

A neighbour, Kursum Vakhayeva, 36, said he had seen Russian soldiers stripping a house and piling its contents in their tank.

She says she won some goodwill from the soldiers by giving them my last pot of jam. "She can't leave Grozny because she has no family and no money."

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Julia Kalinina, a writer for the Moscow daily Moskovsky Komsomolets, was guided out of Chernorechye, a district of Grozny under constant Russian shellfire, by Chechen escort Saturday evening.

She said on her arrival at Nazran, capital of the Russian Republic of Ingushetia: "There are no (Chechen) fighters there (in Chernorechye) any more. But the Russians won't move in. They just keep shooting."

Chernorechye is a residential suburb on Grozny's southern outskirts which had been the last holdout for Chechen separatist rebels in the capital after Russian troops seized control of most of Grozny in mid-February.

Ms. Kalinina brought with her Yanna Afayeva, one of the thousands of children trapped under constant bombardment by Russian troops which have encircled the suburb.

The Chechen fighters decided to quit Chernorechye early last week when the Russian troops cut off the last road leading from Grozny.

Ms. Kalinina was faced with a choice: To go with them, or to wait for Russian troops to occupy the area. She decided to stay, moving in with Yelena Afayeva and her daughter Yanna, 11, and Elina, aged 6.

But the Russians never came. Instead, they began a stream of artillery and helicopter rocket attacks on the suburb which are still continuing.

During the days that followed the Chechen withdrawal, the residents of Chernorechye were completely cut off.

The smoking of cannabis also increased in several other European countries, most of them former Soviet Bloc states, said the report.

Even more alarming was a record high level of heroin seizures of more than eight tonnes for all of Europe over 1993, with nearly 90 per cent originating in the border area of Afghanistan and Pakistan and cross-shipping through Iran.

Though some European countries report declining heroin use among youths, Europe in general is struggling with growing crack cocaine use.

## Milosevic rejects contact group plan

## Sniping halts Turkish leader's Sarajevo visit

SARAJEVO (R) — U.N. peacekeepers alarmed by sniping refused to provide a plane for Turkish President Suleyman Demirel to visit Sarajevo Monday, but he planned to try to use his own aircraft.

Bosnian Serb forces said they would not guarantee the safety of Mr. Demirel's plane if it attempted to fly over their lines, and locked anti-aircraft missile radar on a landing German aircraft in an apparent warning.

Mr. Demirel, visiting Turkish U.N. peacekeepers in central Bosnia, told reporters in the Adriatic port of Split that he would continue efforts to reach Sarajevo.

"If I can go with my (own) plane, I will go with my plane," he said.

U.N. spokesman Garry Coward said the air company which operates U.N. flights to Sarajevo turned down Mr. Demirel because of the risk to the passengers and crew.

An aircraft carrying his advance party was shot at Saturday at Sarajevo Airport.

Peacekeepers blamed a rise in sniping incidents on the planned visit by the Turkish leader, whose government supports the Muslim-led Bosnian authorities in their war with Serbs.

Turks, who occupied Serbia and Bosnia for 500 years, are still regarded by Serbs as a traditional enemy.

The sources said he refused to compromise in talks last week with big power envoys sent to Belgrade to coax him into agreement.

Contact group countries — the United States, Russia, France, Germany and Britain — fear the Bosnian war could resume when the cease-fire expires at the end of April unless they can make a deal.

## EU, Russia sign nuclear safety deal

BRUSSELS (R) — Russia and the European Union signed a nuclear safety deal Monday containing a vital and long-debated clause limiting the liability of western aid and equipment suppliers in the case of a nuclear accident.

The interim deal, signed by Commissioner for Eastern Europe Hans Van Den Brock and Russian Atomic Energy Minister Viktor Mikhailov, clears away one of the main factors that has slowed implementation of an array of nuclear safety projects.

The report of the International Narcotics Control Board released Monday, praised governments of more than a dozen countries for their efforts in combating illicit drug trading and use.

They were convicted on Feb. 9 after a village imam accused them of scrawling blasphemous remarks on the wall of a mosque and on pieces of paper thrown into the mosque.

A third Christian, Manzoor Masih, accused of blasphemy in the same incident, was shot dead outside a Lahore court in April 1994. Salamat Masih and Rehmat Masih were wounded in the attack.

Another Christian, Gul Masih, who had a death sentence for blasphemy overturned by the Lahore High Court in a separate case last year, took refuge in Germany after his release.

In the United States, the incidence of drug abuse increased ... among pupils in their final year of secondary school, reversing a downward trend observed in the last several years," said the 62-page report.

It said that a third of all reported AIDS cases involving American adults or adolescents were attributable to drug abuse, while more than 70 per cent of women with the HIV virus were infected by contaminated needles while injecting drugs.

The United States has full and complete confidence in Secretary-General Claeis," Mr. Gore told reporters after a visit to NATO's Brussels Headquarters.

Mr. Gore said he had not discussed the details of the scandal with Mr. Claeis, but said he did not believe the accusations in the Belgian press and calls for the

land there.

The German plane which came under Serb tracking was fitted with equipment which can detect anti-aircraft radar.

It was not shot at and landed safely, but U.N. sources said the incident carried a clear message for Mr. Demirel.

Sarajevo has suffered a steady increase in shooting incidents despite a cease-fire signed by both sides in the three-year conflict.

Mr. Demirel, visiting Turkish U.N. peacekeepers in central Bosnia, told reporters in the Adriatic port of Split that he would continue efforts to reach Sarajevo.

"If I can go with my (own) plane, I will go with my plane," he said.

U.N. spokesman Garry Coward said the air company which operates U.N. flights to Sarajevo turned down Mr. Demirel because of the risk to the passengers and crew.

Diplomatic sources said

Mr. Milosevic refused an offer to suspend U.N. sanctions against Serbian-led rump Yugoslavia in return for recognition of Croatia and Bosnia.

Mr. Milosevic wants the trade and oil sanctions, which have slowed Yugoslavia's economy to a standstill, lifted first before joining any further peace initiatives.

Meanwhile French military experts said the northeast Bosnian enclave of Bihać, where mainly Muslim government forces are under severe pressure from Bosnian and Croatian Serbs, will be the first victim of a U.N. pullout from Croatia.

However they would not go along with alarmist United Nations predictions that the withdrawal from Croatia demanded by Zagreb by the end of March would lead to a general war in the Balkans.

"Bihać is not viable" once the U.N. Protection Force (UNPROFOR) leaves the neighbouring self-proclaimed Croatian-Serb Republic of Krajina, a French military source said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

## EU, Russia sign nuclear safety deal

Companies funded by the EU's Tacis Programme, designed to help the countries of the former Soviet Union modernise their economies and infrastructures, have long complained that the absence of a liability-limitation deal left them open to law suits in the event of a nuclear accident.

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However, the commission said it would continue to press the Russian government to take the next step and sign the Vienna Convention which confines accident liability to the operator of a nuclear installation.

Alliance ambassadors have given Mr. Claeis their full support but privately say they do not want his attention diverted at a time when the alliance is looking at expanding eastwards and building a new relationship with Russia.

Mr. Gore arrived at NATO headquarters Monday for talks with member states on a range of issues from extending the alliance eastwards to its relations with Russia.

Mr. Gore was met at NATO's front entrance by Mr. Claeis.

Speculation has grown that Mr. Claeis may have to resign after he was forced last week to backtrack on statements that he knew nothing about bribes offered by an Italian

lobbyist to Belgian politicians.

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## Jordan Times

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### Trade with principles

MOSCOW'S SCOFFING at protests from Washington and elsewhere about its ongoing plan to help Iran develop its atomic-power programme is apparently motivated by economic considerations. Russia's minister for nuclear power, Viktor Mikhailov, was unwavering in showing his country's determination to go ahead with its bilateral agreement with Tehran to build nuclear plants worth \$800 million. About two hundred Russian nuclear scientists and technicians are reported to have already begun work on a nuclear power reactor at Bushehr whose construction was suspended in the 1980s. Other nuclear projects are also in the pipeline with Russian expertise and technology becoming the mainstay of Iran's energetic nuclear programme including the construction of a university research reactor and the training of Iranian nuclear scientists in Russia. Cash-hungry Russia is also selling enriched uranium on the international market and is reputed to be earning \$1.2 billion annually from this trade.

This Russian perspective on transferring nuclear technology and material as if it were an innocuous trade practice does not bode well for the efforts to breathe additional life into the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). Moscow cannot remain indifferent to the threat of nuclear proliferation in the region especially when there are increasing efforts to make the Middle East a nuclear free zone.

Iran has of course every right to develop its peaceful nuclear programme. It also has every right to be free from nuclear threats from countries in the area, including Israel. As a matter of fact, Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati assured Moscow as recently as last Saturday that his government supports in principle the extension of the NPT.

Still, Moscow must be part of the ongoing internationally coordinated effort by stopping from commercialising nuclear technology with disregard to the ramifications of such a policy on international and regional peace and security. The Iranian-Russian nuclear link can, for instance, fuel Israel's protestations that it can never accede to the NPT unless nuclear threats from Arab and Muslim capitals are checked first.

At the same time, Israel must also show readiness to play the nuclear game responsibly and to the satisfaction of the states in the region. There is every reason to fear additional nuclear proliferation in the Middle East and its outer rims as long as Israel clings to its present course of defying international consensus against the spread of mass-destruction weapons.

### ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

ALL THAT Lebanon received as a result of its participation in the Madrid conference was further Israeli acts of aggression and more sufferings for its people, according to Mahmoud Rimawi in Al Rai. The writer said that in addition to maintaining its occupation of southern Lebanon, Israel is currently imposing a blockade on Lebanon's southern ports and escalating its raids on Lebanese territory. The Israeli government maintains that it is stepping up its attacks to force the Beirut government to prevent resistance attacks against Israeli forces and the so-called South Lebanese Army, said the writer. But in fact Israel aims to force Beirut to incorporate the surrogate army in the south into the Lebanese armed forces on the one hand, and to cause Lebanon to follow a course of action independent from that of Syria on the other before any talks can be conducted on the question of Israeli forces pullout from the south, argued the writer. He said Israel wants to deal with Lebanon separately and force Beirut to accept the Israeli conditions.

A COLUMNIST in Al Rai Arabic daily said the Arab League, which next month observes its 50th anniversary, has nothing honourable to celebrate as its actions and performance over the past five decades have only led to its semi-demise. Mohammad Kharroub said that the league's Secretary General's recent visits to Arab countries have achieved no reconciliation among Arab regimes, nor have they succeeded in persuading the Arab leaders to convene an Arab summit when they can seriously tackle the numerous problems plaguing the Arab World. If anything, said the writer, the Arab League has only succeeded in involving itself as party to inter-Arab divisions and conflicts and in proving its impotence in handling questions of destiny facing the Arab Nation. Having failed to rise to the level of responsibility and to perform its duty in an acceptance manner, said the writer, the Arab League should refrain from issuing any statements about achievements in the past decades as these would be false and because nothing that the league has done so far serves as a cause of pride for the Arab World.

### The View from Fourth Circle

## Being courageous and decisive — with ourselves

THE RECENT Israeli withdrawal from occupied Jordanian lands should have been something of a consummation of the Jordanian-Israeli peace agreement, and yet the atmospheres of peace between the two states remain peculiarly muted. Public sentiment towards the peace accord in Jordan is accepting, but not always enthusiastic. Public support for the peace accord is routinely expressed by officials and citizens alike, but privately there is considerable debate about the full implications of the peace agreement, and much hesitation to normalise relations with Israel.

I have always thought it politically unhealthy and emotionally torturing for a country such as ours — whose combined track record of humanistic development and modern political liberalisation is perhaps the strongest of any Arab country — to accept such a wide gap between public and private political discussion. The peace accord seems to have reduced the vibrancy and richness of Jordanian public political debate, while one would have expected precisely the opposite — that the combination of peace, democratisation and economic revitalisation would have sparked a vibrant new era of modern Jordanian history. That probably will happen, but it has not happened yet.

It is vitally important to continue to probe for the reasons of this situation, to understand them and to deal with them with the combination of intelligence, diligence and mercy that have always defined Jordanian political culture. I believe that the current phase of Jordanian and modern Arab history can reveal a great deal about our identity, and, therefore, about our most logical future national orientation. We showed great courage and decisiveness in signing the peace treaty with Israel. Do we have the capacity to turn these two noble attributes inwards on ourselves, and address our own society as diligently as we have addressed Israel? I think we do. I also think we must.

The two outstanding realities of the post-peace accord situation are that the government and many Jordanians are pushing ahead to implement the agreement, while many individuals and organised sectors of society are fighting hard to forestall normalisation. The deliberate absence of several dozen MPs from the last session of Parliament, to deny a quorum and thus prevent passage of a law to spur normalisation, was a rather profound if increasingly rare public expression of the political opposition to normalisation.

Those who fight normalisation, however, are fighting a losing battle. They are in the same situation as they were in at the time of the Madrid peace talks (November 1991) and again when the PLO-Israel Oslo accord was signed (September 1993). Then and now, they fight the terms of

the day's Arab-Israeli peace process; but they offer no credible alternative, and they are clearly out of step with the majority's willingness to see what the government policy can deliver.

Many people may think the process will not succeed or will collapse one day; but even so, they are willing to see it through, because a) they trust the Jordanian leadership, b) they genuinely want a just peace and are willing to coexist with Israel if Arab rights are assured, and c) they do not see viable other options. The peace process may not set off fireworks of joy in every Jordanian's heart or appreciably improve their quality of life in the immediate future, but neither will it dissolve or unravel.

Nevertheless, the anti-normalisation forces should not be ignored or dismissed as chronic complainers or hopeless dreamers. It is important to know why, for example, some Jordanians feel so insecure that they fear that Israel will dominate and ultimately destroy their Arab-Islamic culture, as well as gobble up their Jordanian economy. It is equally important to accurately assess the fears of some Jordanians that the peace treaty will isolate Jordan from its natural Arab hinterland and turn it into a protectorate of the United States and/or Israel. This is possible in theory, but highly unlikely in reality, in my view. But my view is not very important. What is important is that hundreds of thousands of Jordanians express these fears and concerns in private, to one another and to other Arabs.

All of this means a lot about our identity. It suggests to me that the pan-Arab component of Jordanian identity is asserting itself as a natural and a very powerful reaction to three recent prevalent trends: a) the repeated affirmation of distinctly Jordanian national rights, needs and aspirations (land, water, etc.) taken in relative isolation from other, similar Arab rights; b) the government's frequent, high profile interaction with Israelis, Americans and American Jewish groups, while contacts with Arab parties may be taking a back seat for the moment, and c) the feeling among many that, as a consequence of the above two points, Jordan may be finding itself slightly isolated in the Arab World.

It is important to note that the main reason for opposition to the peace accord within Jordan is not about the quality of national rights that Jordan has secured from the deal. The main opposition relates to Jordan's place and role in the wider Arab World, and to our obviously cordial ties with Israel at a time when Israel continues to occupy, imprison, torture and kill other Arabs. The peace accord with Israel has emphasised how strong are the pan-Arab identity and political sentiment of many Jordanians — smart, street-wise men, women and children who naturally understand that genuine security and long-term develop-

ment prospects depend, first and foremost, on our integration into the wider Arab economy and national identity.

The peace accord, many of its opponents feel, is taking us in the other direction — away from our natural Arab hinterland and towards an unnatural association with, or even dependence upon, the United States and Israel. Time will tell if any of these fears are legitimate. It is a good sign that the government is working hard to mend fences with other Arab states, but this may prove to be difficult in view of the very strong message of the peace accord. It is troubling, on the other hand, that relations are less than ideal with our four powerful Arab neighbours, namely Egypt, Syria, Iraq and Saudi Arabia. It would be easy but foolish to ignore these realities, or minimise their importance, or shoot the messengers who bring the bad news — but that would not change the realities and their potential consequences.

Our immediate challenge in Jordan is to chew on and digest these political facts — to figure out the most appropriate way to achieve the full promise of peace without creating permanent scars within the Jordanian body politic or between Jordan and the wider Arab World. The really important point that should be appreciated is that Jordanian domestic concerns about the peace accord are not ideological — they are visceral. They emanate from those mysterious regions within the body and the soul from whence humans beings instinctively understand who they are and where they came from, whom they belong with, who will love them and protect them, who will stand by them, and who will feed their children and grandchildren and future generations.

It would be extraordinarily useful and constructive for the government and the opposition to the peace issue to engage in an open and ongoing dialogue about these issues, in Parliament, on television and radio, and in other available fora. The government should not fear such a discussion, because the peace accord is signed, delivered and (more or less) being implemented. What the government should fear, though, is a situation in which huge and vital issues that touch on the very essence of human identity and belonging are often bottled up and kept out of the public debate; this only generates the kinds of frustration and alienation that we have tried to reduce by making peace.

The opposition for its part should welcome such a dynamic, as it would clarify their concerns and allow them to impact more coherently on public policy; perhaps it would also help to adjust government policies in a manner that would strengthen national unity and allow the Jordan-Israel accord to act as a catalyst for progress on the other negotiating fronts.

### Turning the heat on Iran and the Islamists

By Jane Hunter

INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES of a number of governments have been collaborating in the hunt for the bombers that struck Israeli and Jewish targets in Argentina, Panama and Britain last July. But, even with the charging of two of the five Palestinians arrested in London earlier this month, it still seems that they are yet to identify the perpetrators, widely assumed to be operatives of the Lebanese organisation Hezbollah.

However, if the trail is getting cold, the atmospheres are heating up, as Israel, the State Department and U.S. Jewish organisations mount a vigorous campaign against radical Islamists and their perceived sponsor, Iran — a campaign that may be intended to divert attention from the conduct of U.S. and Israeli intelligence but could well divert U.S. policy.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin has said last summer's bombings were a response to Israeli attacks on Hezbollah in Lebanon. U.S. officials, speaking anonymously, told the *New York Times* the same thing. A group called Followers of God, presumably a Hezbollah creation, immediately claimed credit for the July 18 blast, which tore apart the Mutual Argentine-Israeli Association building in Buenos Aires, killing at least 90 people and wounding 200.

Nevertheless, Israeli officials publicly blamed Iran for the attacks and Israel pressed Argentina to do the same. Buenos Aires was close to rupturing diplomatic ties with Iran in August, when Argentina's Supreme Court quashed arrest orders for four Iranian diplomats issued by Judge Juan Jose Galeano. Outside observers believe Iran may well have provided logistic support for the bombings but doubt it instigated them. Visiting Argentina in early January, Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres made no specific comments on the investigation. In an October interview with an Argentine paper, Judge Galeano maintained that the evidence still pointed to the four Iranians. But he was having trouble locating the purported former Iranian official, Moammar Moatamer, on whose testimony is impugned the diplomats. Iran describes Mr. Moatamer as a common criminal.

Two senior Argentine officials quoted by the

most detailed news account — in the *New York Times* of Feb. 11 — rest on the unconfirmed account of a reporter for the Brazilian magazine *Isto E*. Mario Chimanovich, who says Israeli intelligence has determined that the explosives for last July's bomb came from a border region arms dealer. He also claims that a Brazilian, Wilson Roberto dos Santos, told him he worked with an Iranian group involved in the bombing and the 1992 bombing of the Israeli embassy in Buenos Aires. In November Mr. dos Santos told a judge in Argentina that in August 1992 — five months after the embassy was bombed — he carried a suitcase of arms and ammunition for the group. But Mr. dos Santos later recanted and is now in jail in Argentina on perjury charges. Argentine authorities have arrested two dozen people — mainly of Middle East origin — but, besides Mr. dos Santos, only two Argentines connected to the vehicle believed to have carried the bomb are still being held.

The Panamanian investigation has stalled on a difficult conundrum. The possibility that, although claimed by the Followers of God, the July 19 bombing of a commuter plane carrying mostly Jews and Israelis was actually staged to murder a local Jew, Saul Schwartz. Mr. Schwartz was under investigation by the Italian authorities for alleged money-laundering for the Medellin cartel, according to Panamanian reports.

Authorities have reportedly determined that the only unclaimed body was that of a Lebanese passenger who refused to provide a local address and who was the most badly mutilated by the explosives. However, soon after the attack, Panama's then President-elect Ernesto Perez Balladares said it could well be linked to "illegal activities in the (Colon) Free Zone," from the Panama City-bound plane had departed. Reports over the last decade have linked the many Israelis and Jews who work in Colon to arms dealing, money laundering and sanctions-busting. Panamanian officials in the U.S. refused to comment on the current state of the investigation.

The fine points of the attacks in Panama and Argentina are the province of the congressional. From the beginning, Israeli officials in the West have portrayed the attack as the work of enemies of the Middle East peace process. And that was the line that was hammered home in the Western media, which often lumped the bombings together with Human Rights campaign in the occupied territories and Israel.

This winter, Israel began to emphasise the dangers of what it calls Iran's crash effort to obtain nuclear arms. And last month, within days of each other, several major U.S. Jewish organisations issued detailed — and very similar — calls for an intensified international and domestic fight against "radical Islamic terrorism." Citing the July bombings as well as the 1993 bombing of

### Focus on foreign demons

Some observers suspect the recent push is designed to engage the enthusiasm of the new Republican congressional majority, whose inclination is to refocus U.S. foreign policy on foreign demons and militarism — and away from innovations like peace and multilateral action. Whether intended or not, the proposed legislation's constitutional rights could appeal to the Republicans' yen to demolish what they characterise as the effete icons of the Democrats' long rule (such as welfare and appeals of death sentences).

The renewed emphasis on anti-Israeli terrorism parallels recent efforts by some Arab governments to make a common enemy of radical Islamism. And both the Israeli and these Arab stances are at odds with the Clinton administration's most thoughtful foreign policy. Articulated in regard to Algeria, the policy favours engaging ascendant Islamists and nudging them towards democracy, rather than defaulting into the role of "great satan." The U.S. did with Iran.

This policy, with the implicit value it puts on human rights, is less attractive to some Arab governments than Israeli-style anti-terrorism, notes Graham Fuller, a senior political analyst at RAND, a prestigious think tank. Some Arab governments, such as Tunisia and Egypt, prefer the interpretation that Islamic political opposition "all boils down to terrorism," Mr. Fuller told MEI. "They see Islamism benefiting from a reform agenda." So might the Republican Congress.

*Middle East International*



### LETTERS

### Homosexuality condemned

#### To the Editor:

IN HIS article, "Homosexuality justified!" (Jordan Times, Feb. 6), Waleed Sa'di speaks of homosexuality as a biological disorder that cannot be controlled, implicitly rejecting discrimination against it.

Prophet Lot also had something to say about homosexuals: "What! of all creatures, do ye come into the males, and leave the wives your Lord created for you... (holy Koran 26: 165-68)." So did Prophet Mohammad condemn homosexuals. "Damned is the one who commits the acts of Lot's people," he said.

Khaled Tuli,  
University of Jordan,  
Amman.

### An era for innovation

#### To the Editor:

WITH THE signing of the peace treaty with Israel-Jordan has entered a new era; an era of innovation, prosperity and abundance. This treaty has been long awaited by our people who have undergone very hard times during the last 40 years of struggle. Now the pursuit of peace bore fruit. The countdown towards modernisation and social amity has begun.

The gains we have made from this treaty are many. Our territories have been retrieved and our borders have been demarcated.

The peace treaty responded to the rapid unfolding of events in the Middle East and to the growing awareness within Israel that there is a need for political settlement since violence can only beget violence. But the task is not over and a long road lies ahead before we could establish an abundant and prosperous life.

Hatem Shihab,  
Amman.

## Isolationism taking hold in the U.S.

**Ageing lords fight for the old order and America Firsters look to their own**

By Martin Walker

**ALAN GREENSPAN**, the owlish and cerebral head of the U.S. central bank, was unhappy about the president's request that he made the phone call anyway.

It was to Rush Limbaugh, the combative right-wing talkshow host. Mr. Greenspan offered a personal briefing on why it was important to America that Limbaugh not attack Bill Clinton's plan to rescue the Mexican economy. Mr. Limbaugh listened, then carried on regardless.

In a way, the incident sums up the strange, almost surreal plight of the traditional masters of the global order, the leaders of what is routinely described as the world's last superpower: "They are reduced to courting the new populists for support for their increasingly tentative decisions."

More than five years after the Berlin Wall fell, marking the triumph of a 60-year campaign for global hegemony, America has never been so integrated into the global economy it fashioned, nor so reluctant about its implications.

The U.S. is now the world's leading exporter, with almost a quarter of its GDP coming from trade, and has a more export-dependent economy than Japan. A Clinton doctrine is emerging that locks the country into the new building blocks of the global economy in North America, the Pacific Rim and entire Western hemisphere.

But not since the 1930s has the United States appeared so ready to turn inwards again, back to that isolationism which President Franklin Roosevelt said had finally been sunk at Pearl Harbour.

The new Republican majority swept into power in Congress, pledged to forbid any future American participation in United Nations operations without its permission. It has vowed to build those anti-missile defences whose promise of an impregnable Fortress America so gripped the imagination of Ronald Reagan.

The new Republicans have little time for the traditions of party discipline. Their fiery new speaker, Newt Gingrich made common cause with Mr. Clinton and Mr. Greenspan to back the rescue plan for the Mexican economy, supporting a key partner in the North American Free Trade Area which the Republicans had helped devise. But Mr. Clinton could not deliver the Democratic congressmen,

Mr. Greenspan could not deliver Mr. Limbaugh, and Mr. Gingrich could not deliver his Republicans. "Not since Senate rejection of the League of Nations in 1919 has our power elite suffered such a rout as it has on the \$40 billion Mexican bailout," crowed Pat Buchanan, the conservative and unabashed isolationist who challenged George Bush in the 1992 presidential primaries, and is running again next year.

"The Mexican crisis should be a warning to what lies at the end of the big highway marked with the signs NAFTA and GATT. We are linking our economic security, indeed our economic survival, to regimes like Japan that use spies to steal our industrial secrets and non-tariff barriers to keep out our products. To regimes like China that steal our intellectual property and use slave labour to earn the capital to challenge the U.S. for world dominance. To regimes like Mexico that devalue their currency to rob investors and drive us out of their markets."

The Senate Foreign Relations Committee is chaired by Jesse Helms of North Carolina, who has never voted for a foreign aid bill and insists Americans "are tired of pouring hard-earned money down ratholes."

The new chairman of the foreign operations committee, Senator Mitch McConnell of Kentucky, who wants to abolish AID, has almost complete control of U.S. spending overseas. "We ought not to be using our money or our troops in places where we have no interests. We have to exercise some restraint" he says, explaining why he opposed the successful U.S. operation to restore democratic rule to Haiti. "Why in the world would we spend a billion and a half dollars picking sides in a banana republic?"

One might get the impression from the election that Republicans as a group are isolationist, Mr. McConnell says. "Not so. I'm an internationalist, and my goal is to see that our party not be isolationist. But you have to put yourself on a diet when it comes to intervention, and devise a meticulous approach to the use of the military, and target foreign aid to areas where U.S. interests lie."

In a way, the word "isolationist" lets the Republicans off the hook, evoking a 1920s-style retreat from an entangling world. The term they prefer these days is "unilateralism" coined in response to Clinton's approach to the U.S. returning to the pure isolationism of 1920-25



**MISSION UNPOPULAR:** Wary U.S. marines patrol the helicopter landing pad at Mogadishu airport, checking its security in preparation for the landing of 2,600 U.S. and 500 with "muscular multilateralism" in Somalia and Haiti.

**Italian soldiers** around the beginning of March to protect the withdrawal of the last 2,000 or so U.N. troops from Somalia against

than I have ever seen. At the moment, the current is unilateralist rather than isolationist, but it will lead to isolationism, because we will not be able to carry the allies with us.

"There is a presumption that U.S. leadership will be indefinitely sustained because of the automatic followship of our allies. But our allies followed because they were frightened of the Soviet Union. Now they aren't. They are frightened of other things, like Muslim fundamentalism in North Africa, which are far less compelling to us. The unilateralist current is so strong in Congress now, and the Clinton administration is so weak, that it cannot stand up to it. Congress has always been sceptical of the U.N., of international commitments, and successive White Houses in the past have always stood up to it."

Mr. Maynes notes that there was always an isolationist current in the Republican Party, based in the geographic heartland of the mid-West. But it was traditionally balanced and usually overcome by the New England republicans, representing a European and maritime trading region, whose influence has steadily dwindled.

"If the U.S. based foreign policy solely on our vital national interests, we wouldn't have one, because in a sense, we don't need one. Protected by two ocean moats, self-reliant in food and raw materials, with a rich continent and markets to the south, this country faces no real security threat. No one could conquer us or destroy us without embarking on a suicide mission," Mr. Maynes says.

"So to have a foreign policy, you have to go beyond these core interests, and make the case that stability in Europe and in Asia and the Gulf are also parts of our vital interests. When we had the great Soviet enemy, that case was clear. It is much less clear now."

Sherle Schwenninger is director of the World Policy Institute in New York. This year, like last year, he was asked to help draft the foreign policy section of President Clinton's State of the Union speech. What worries him is the speed with which the interests of the U.S. and Europe are diverging. The argument over Bosnia was where this began; it has since become much sharper.

"The West as a security system is fragmenting, because the unity provided by the single Soviet threat is being replaced by separate regional threats. The U.S. feels threatened by an economic crisis by Mexico which has little resonance for Europe. The Europeans feel threatened by Islamic fundamentalism in North Africa, which is far less of an issue in the U.S." Mr. Schwenninger said.

"In the past, this kind of split between the U.S. and the European allies could be resolved, not just because of NATO and the Soviet threat, but because there was a bipartisan foreign policy elite which tended to speak with a single voice. But now we see a

split between the U.S. and the European allies, which is far less of an issue in the U.S." Mr. Schwenninger said.

"In the past, this kind of

attack by clan militias. There is a growing opposition in the U.S. to the involvement of U.S. forces in U.N. operations (AFP photo)

standing U.N. force — an army of conscience — equipped and prepared to carry out humanitarian sanctuaries through force if necessary."

That didn't work either. She tried a desperate appeal to logic. If this Republican bill to take America out of the U.N. peacekeeping business went through, it would mean an American that could not mount a new Desert Storm, and could not legally have fought the Korean war.

"The irony is that if we put the U.N. out of business, our costs will go up, not down, for our interests will require that we act on our own more often. The wear and tear on our military will be greater, not less," she said.

Finally, she was reduced to defiance: "This administration will not allow the hullabaloo over a more recent contract to cause the charter of the U.N., the contract of Truman and Dulles and Franklin Roosevelt and Eleanor Roosevelt and the generation that triumphed over the Nazis, to be ripped to shreds."

Sorry, Madeleine Albright, the ambassador to the U.N. trying to stem the tide against the Republican congressmen's loathing for the U.N. and all its works. She tried quoting their own party leaders, starting with George Bush in 1992 intoning that the U.N. "is emerging as a central instrument for the prevention and resolution of conflicts and the preservation of peace."

That didn't work, so she quoted Ronald Reagan, in the same year, calling for "a

*The Guardian*

### King meets Abdul Meguid

(Continued from page 1) ing such a meeting is the responsibility of Arab leaders not the Arab League," he said.

Dr. Abdul Meguid said he and Sharif Zeid discussed the question of coordinating Jordanian-Arab League efforts towards ensuring the success of a March 22 Arab League Council meeting and reviewed current developments in the Arab region.

A statement following the meeting, which was attended by Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti and Minister of State for Prime Minister Affairs Ibrahim Izzezzine, said that the two sides reviewed the peace process, pan-Arab affairs and the Arab League's role in the coming stage.

The prime minister voiced

Jordan's full backing for the Arab League and its various agencies towards serving Arab causes and enhancing Arab solidarity.

He said that Jordan, which chairs the current Arab League Council session, would do all that in its power to ensure the success of the league's efforts to serve Arab causes and implement all topics on the session's agenda.

Mr. Kabariti earlier met Dr. Abdul Meguid for an exchange of views on Arab affairs and the work of the Arab League.

In a statement after the meeting, Mr. Kabariti said Jordan was seeking to ensure the success of the Arab League in rebuilding bridges of confidence and restoring Arab solidarity.

### Israelis fire at Lebanese boats

(Continued from page 1) states Beirut's political agenda. Although Lebanon has fewer problems to resolve with Israel, it is unlikely to

sign a peace treaty with the Jewish state before Syria does.

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher was to return to the Middle East in

Iraq dismisses U.S. threat

(Continued from page 1) er As'umouria said she was gripped by "hysteria uncommon for a woman of her age."

"We say ... to this old woman with a vicious tongue ... despite your and (President Bill) Clinton's will of evil and barbarism, the sanctions shall be lifted," the paper said.

"Iraq's march is unique in the sense it has not raised tactical slogans which it failed to implement," he said of his pledge to beat the embargo.

The state-run press is

condemning Ms. Albright.

The government newspap-

### 'PLO could freeze talks'

(Continued from page 1)

or some 7,000, who would be compensated.

"We want to show there is a way forward that is not very complicated and doesn't require serious sacrifices to get to the next stage," Mr. Reshef said.

"Even one settlement going would be a signal to the Palestinians... that we are moving in the direction of giving back the land."

The prime minister had reiterated his opposition to the evacuation of any settlements during the five-year period of autonomy Mr. Reshef admitted.

But the left-wing Meretz Party, junior partner in Mr. Rabin's coalition, had agreed to adopt the plan under which the Israeli army could continue to patrol main roads to remaining settlements, he said. No settlements in the Jordan Valley would be affected.

The four Meretz ministers would support the plan in cabinet, Mr. Reshef said.

Peace Now believes that in the long-term all West Bank and Gaza settlements should be removed and a Palestinian state created alongside Israel.

Israel eased the closure last week granting 15,000 work permits to Palestinians, but tens of thousands more are out of work.

Mr. Shohat said further meetings would take place next week to develop cooperation.

Meanwhile in Gaza City, Japan Monday handed over a \$5 million cheque to the PNA for road works.

### Yemen, Saudi border deal may herald new era

By Assem Abdul Mohsen  
Reuter

SANA — The memorandum of understanding signed by Yemen and Saudi Arabia aimed at solving a 60-year-old border dispute may herald a new era of stability between the Arab peninsula neighbours, diplomats said.

But both parties to the accord face challenges to make the accord stick.

As far as Yemen is concerned, diplomats say Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh must convince his people, traditionally hostile to and suspicious of Saudi Arabia, that the agreement will lead to a solution of the row.

"His trump card will be to convince the Yemenis, severely pressured by economic difficulties, that a settlement of the border dispute on the basis of the memorandum will help ease their suffering," one diplomat said.

"There are half a million Yemenis working here, the prince told reporters after the signing. "It is not possible that we treat the Yemenis less well than we treat other Arabs."

Parts of the 11-article memorandum, signed in the prince's palace in the Muslim holy city of Mecca, appeared to require compromises by both sides.

It provides for the formation of a joint committee

within 30 days to renew demarcation signs established under the Taif agreement between Saudi Arabia and the former North Yemen.

It also said the two sides would try to establish an arbitration mechanism and continue work "leading to demarcation of the remainder of the borders..."

This point appeared to be a Yemeni concession. Sanaa wanted the border between Saudi Arabia and the former North Yemen and South Yemen, which merged in 1990, to be tackled as one issue.

The two sides also promised not to allow their countries to be used as "a base and centre for aggression against each other or for the carrying out of any political, military or information activities against the other side."

This appeared to be a Saudi concession, as Sanaa has complained Riyadh was giving refuge to the Yemeni opposition.

"We said we are one country and one people. If some blameworthy took place between us in the past, this is over," Prince Sultan said.

But he added: "We still have a long way to go..."

## Information society dreams of future

**BRUSSELS (AFP)** — The group of seven (G-7) most industrialised nations agreed to speed up liberalisation in the world's major telecommunications markets at its ministerial conference which ended Sunday by launching a wideranging blueprint for the future.

The G-7 partners agreed to collaborate on the basis of eight core principles to realise their vision of the Global Information Society via the promotion of dynamic competition and private investment within an adaptable regulatory framework giving open access to markets.

But the impending technological revolution gave rise to fears of the momentous social consequences it might bring in its wake, and conferences were keen to keep such fears under wraps as their meeting came to a close.

And there was no mistaking the presence of ulterior motives, harboured by the captains of industry hovering at politicians' sides as they waited for the green light to scratch at their crumb of what promises to be a new money-spinning global market.

As for the politicians themselves meeting in closed sessions, they strove manfully to

keep consensus on the agenda and in their blueprint's conclusions.

No wonder, for the stakes are high: Investment in this hi-tech future involves billions of dollars and many battles lie ahead between large internationals and consortia as they rush to place themselves at the revolution's cutting edge.

Hence the lively pleas for free competition and the opening up of everyone else's markets.

All the firms represented in Brussels were drawn to the conference by a plethora of seductive dreams: Of being able in this brave new world to consult encyclopaedia on a small screen, make "virtual" tours of famous museums or Saint Peter's Basilica in Rome from one's own sitting room, or even drive an "intelligent" car.

But the new technology will also allow the consumer to choose a film and go shopping without leaving home.

As former European Commission president Jacques Delors earlier told the assembled gathering: "You have to fix a few simple objectives to reassure people."

He added balance had to be struck between allowing free competition to aid in-

novation, and regulating to protect the young and withhold information better left in the private domain, such as intellectual property, while preserving cultural diversity.

Mr. Delors meanwhile rejected fears that the "information highway" revolution — the term still means little to the average citizen of the world, polls suggested Sunday — would destroy jobs and widen the gap between rich and poor nations.

"I have heard only optimistic words over employment prospects," Mr. Delors said.

His optimism was echoed by European Industry Commissioner Martin Bangemann, who admitted nonetheless that there would be short-term job cuts.

But "job losses will be even more severe if we do not profit from technological evolution," he warned.

The advent of the information society "will generate more jobs than it will destroy," Mr. Bangemann insisted.

The director general of Japan's National Centre for Science Information Systems, Hiroshi Inose, said the idea that computers were "job destroyers" had to be fought against.

"You have to make work

more entertaining and entertainment more instructive," he said.

But there were those whose nagging doubts would not go away.

The doubters included South African Vice-President Thabo Mbeki, a guest to the meeting, who played up the worry of less-developed nations that they were to be left trailing in the slipstream of the info-saturated first world.

He noted there were already more telephone lines in Manhattan than in the whole of sub-Saharan Africa.

But industrialists as a whole were eager to start driving down those information superhighways, convinced they held the key to a prosperous future and represented "a new chance," perhaps the only real chance, even for less developed nations to become plugged in to the system.

French Industry Minister Josse Rossi for his part promised "everything will be done to avoid a two-speed global information society."

But Pierre Lescure, chairman of French pay-TV station Canal Plus, warned that "we will have to pay for these (less-developed) countries to gain access to the information highways."

## Saudi Arabia may let foreigners buy stocks through mutual funds

DUBAI (R) — Saudi Arabia may allow foreigners for the first time to invest in its burgeoning stock market through mutual funds although the right would be limited initially to residents in the kingdom, bankers said Monday.

The possibility has been under discussion in the market for about two months by the Saudi Arabian Monetary Agency (SAMAA), the Saudi central banking body that regulates the market, though bankers said SAMAA was not expected to decide for some time yet.

"It is more than an idea. It is likely to happen but we don't know when. It is definitely on the cards," said one senior banker in Saudi Arabia.

"The authorities would like to see more liquidity in the mutual fund market," he added.

The Cyprus-based weekly newsletter Middle East Economic Survey (MEES), which was first to report the possible entry of foreigners to the Saudi market Monday, said SAMAA had yet to decide if foreigners other than resi-

dents would be allowed in.

"What is being discussed is allowing resident foreigners in Saudi Arabia to purchase units in certain mutual funds which would exclude any invested in banks," the senior banker said.

The move, if it goes ahead, would be a major new step to open up the Saudi market one of the largest in the Middle East, where the value of shares traded stood at 25 billion riyals (\$6.5 billion) in 1994.

Bankers said the value of existing mutual funds was only about \$200 million but the step would nevertheless be significant as a pointer to further liberalisation of the Saudi market.

Only Saudi nationals had so far been allowed to deal in Saudi shares but a summit of Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) leaders decided in December to allow nationals of all GCC states to buy stocks in any member state — Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates.

The GCC decision excluded bank shares, the market leaders accounting for a quarter of the value of shares traded in the Saudi market, and the new move to allow other foreigners appears to be following the same pattern.

"Resident foreigners would be able to invest in Saudi equities and other types of instruments but not bank shares. The funds are managed by Saudi banks," the senior banker added.

The Saudi stock market has been in general decline after hitting a peak in 1992 in the euphoria after the Gulf war, which ended Iraq's seven-month occupation of Kuwait.

The market index, set up in 1985 at 100, has halved since the peak and now hovers just above 120 after falling steadily in recent months largely due to concern over the economy as limited oil revenues translate into restrictions on government spending.

Last week the index fell by to its lowest level since May 1991. SAMAA figures showed the index fell to 121.99 points on Feb. 19 from 122.46 points the previous week.

But this belies extraordinary activity that saw the value of shares traded last year rise by 43 per cent from 17.3 billion riyals (\$4.6 billion) in 1993.

## Copyright pact to open China's media market

**WASHINGTON (R)** — President Bill Clinton Sunday bailed an agreement with Beijing that averted a trade war over copyright protection, saying the accord will help open China's huge untapped market to U.S. exporters.

"This is a strong agreement for American companies and American workers," Mr. Clinton said in a written statement shortly after the agreement was signed by U.S. and Chinese trade negotiators in Beijing.

China will undertake immediate steps to crack down on piracy, enforce intellectual property rights and provide more open access for U.S. exporters to the burgeoning China market," Mr. Clinton added.

U.S. Trade Representative Mickey Kantor dropped an action that would have imposed punitive 100 per cent tariffs on about \$1.08 billion of Chinese imports. They would have been the largest trade sanctions in U.S. history and China was prepared to impose similar punitive duties on a variety of imports from the United States.

The agreement, signed just a few hours after the sanctions were to go into effect, allows U.S. music, film and computer software companies to create joint ventures with Chinese firms to produce and distribute legitimate copies of their products and to share in the profits, the U.S. trade representative's office said.

China also agreed to take steps to more strictly enforce its laws protecting copyrights, patents and trademarks and to open its courts to ensure that U.S. copyright holders have success to them.

Washington had complained about China's lack of enforcement of its own copyright protection laws.

The United States had demanded that China take action against some 29 factories known to be producing about 75 million copies of pirated compact discs a year. At Sunday's news conference, Mr. Kantor noted that Chinese authorities overnight raided the most notorious of the pirating factories.

## Report: \$15b a year needed to alleviate poverty in South Asia

**NEW DELHI (AFP)** — South Asia, which accounts for more than half of the world's poorest people, needs an additional \$15 billion a year over the next decade to reduce poverty to five per cent of the population, according to a report.

"India has more people below the poverty line than Africa has people," said Hans-C. Von Sponeck, the United Nations resident coordinator in India. "By the Indian definition, 300 million-plus people are living below the poverty line."

"The largest number of victims in this group are women," he said, releasing the conclusions of U.N.-sponsored discussions here among Indian decision-makers ahead of the March 6-12 U.N. World Summit for Social Development in Copenhagen.

Politicians, bureaucrats, non-governmental organisations, industrialists, journalists, trade unionists, U.N. representatives and academics took part in the talks and came up with what was described as a "Summit-related action plan."

Professor S.R. Hashmi, a principal adviser to India's Planning Commission, said there was an acute "resource gap" among the seven members of the South Asian Association for Regional Coop-

eration (SAARC). He estimated that the SAARC countries would require an additional \$15 billion a year over the next 10 years to bring down poverty to five per cent of the population.

"For the low- and middle-income countries as a whole, the gap was \$235 billion," he added.

SAARC, which groups Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, accounts for around half of the 1.3 billion people surviving on less than \$370 a year, the World Bank definition of the poverty line.

Mr. Hashmi said the \$15 billion needed by SAARC nations was in addition to funds already being spent on poverty alleviation and assumed a one per cent reduction in military expenditure and a three per cent rise in the savings rate.

Participants in the discussions agreed that a "major task" in alleviating poverty would be to "raise resources at the national level" and come up with "innovative sources of funding."

Among the recommendations were reducing military expenditure, raising the savings rate, improving tax collection, diversification of exports and greater efficiency in public spending.

The participants said that in the case of liberalising India, economic growth should be "immediately geared toward poverty alleviation, productive employment creation and social integration."

They also said that pressure should be put on developing countries to meet the target allocating 0.7 per cent of gross national product to official development assistance. The present average is

0.34 per cent.

"It is 0.2 per cent in the case of the United States, destroying the myth of the big sacrifice," said U.N. official Von Sponeck. "There is no big sacrifice."

Indian Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao is among the leaders of more than 160 countries planning to attend the Copenhagen summit, whose stated goals are attacking poverty, building solidarity and creating jobs.

## German deficits to shrink on strong growth in east

**BONN (R)** — Resurgent economic growth in eastern Germany will help reduce Bonn's fiscal deficit over the next few years but restoring the virtually balanced Budget seen before unification in 1990 will be difficult, economists say.

"Among the major industrial nations, Germany alone can say its fiscal deficit stems from one cause, and that is transfers to the east," said Holger Schmidinger, senior economist at Merrill Lynch in Frankfurt.

Transfers totalled about 160 billion marks (\$10 billion) last year, private sector economists estimate.

This was roughly comparable to an estimated 156 billion mark (\$106 billion) public sector shortfall, which

reducing the federal shortfall gradually to 27 billion marks (\$18.3 billion) in 1998.

Strong growth of around eight per cent a year in east Germany will gradually reduce the need for transfers in coming years.

"Transfers will certainly decline on a net basis, as growth boosts government tax revenue from the east," said Gerhard Grebe, chief economist at Bank Julius Baer.

However, economists at Salomon Brothers said in a recent report that continued pressure by unions in the east to raise pay to Western levels, despite the region's lower productivity, could slow the decline in transfers.

Mr. Schmidinger estimates that the total public sector deficit dropped to around 4.7 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) in 1994 from 6.1 per cent the year before.

It should drop below three per cent by 1997 and to two per cent by 2000 if the government meets its target of limiting spending increases to the inflation rate plus one per cent.

Guenther Thumann of Salomon Brothers said the reintroduction of a 7.5 per cent solidarity surcharge on income and corporation tax last month should help trim the deficit this year.

The favourable trend should then continue, except for 1996, when costly measures to raise the tax threshold for the poor and improve the position of families could inflate the deficit.

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## Business Daily Beat

A review of economic news from the Arabic press

## Ministry preparing JD 133m worth of tenders

THE MINISTRY of Public Works and Housing intends to implement major projects in the Jordan Valley (Al Ghor) estimated at JD 133 million. The projects include a JD 75 million, 120-kilometre road between North Shouneh and South Shouneh, a JD 20 million, 23-kilometre road between Kufur Houd and Prince Mohammad Bridge, a JD 18 million, 20-kilometre road between Irbid-North Shouneh-Jordan Valley Bridge, a JD 10 million, 10-kilometre road between South Shouneh and King Hussein Bridge and widening a 10-kilometre road between Al Kafrain and King Abdulla bridge to become a four-lane-road at a cost of JD 10 million. Work is underway in preparing the tender documents for these projects so as to start upon receiving the funds to be given as grants or loans within the framework of peace projects in the region (Al Ra'i).

THE MINISTRY of Water and Irrigation issued warnings to 51 dairy, chemical, metal and oil factories in Amman, Russeifeh and Mafraq for violating the terms and specifications fixed by the ministry with regard to waste water drainage. The factories were told to take the necessary steps to dispose of the industrial waste water according to specifications or to be subject to administrative disciplinary measures (Al Ra'i).

IT IS expected that Royal Jordanian will be transformed into a public shareholding company whose shares are totally owned by the government before the end of this year.

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Director-General Nader Al Dhababi said the change represents the first stage of the privatisation process. He pointed out that RJ would operate more efficiently on commercial basis during the two years following its transformation into a public entity. Mr. Dhababi noted that RJ would also be able to show higher profits to lure potential investors.

The RJ chief revealed that a special committee has finished its studies and its recommendations will be forwarded to the government in the near future. He added that discussions are continuing with the government on how to remedy previous years losses, raise the current capital and reschedule debts (Al Ra'i).

JORDAN will present 65 projects, requiring some \$6 billion of investment, to the international economic conference to be held in Amman in October. According to sources close to the committee preparing for the conference, the projects were grouped in three batches. The first batch comprises 43 government, infrastructure projects valued at \$1.5 billion. The second batch comprises 13 investment projects, valued at \$1.6 billion, and which can be funded from both the private and public sectors. The others are semi-governmental investment projects which the government has been pushing for through reconsideration of most of the laws pertaining to investment; these are only nine, estimated to cost \$1.9 billion (Al Aswad).

The income tax office in Zarqa collected JD 2,558,995 in 1994, a 31 per cent increase over the amount collected in 1993. The number of taxpayers at the governorate at the end of 1994 stood at 39,845, of which 19,171 were individuals, 1,423 ordinary companies, 44 shareholding companies and 9,207 employees. It is expected that the Zarqa income tax office would add 3,000 new taxpayers to its list this year and would increase its revenue by about 12 per cent in 1995 (Al Ra'i).

## Derivatives: The nasty nightmare of the '90s

LONDON (R) — Once bank bosses had bad dreams about pouring money down black holes in South America or into property that nobody wanted. Now their worst nightmares are about those mysterious products, derivatives.

The "D" word is guaranteed to scare politicians and regulators as well as bank managers.

Yet the people most closely involved with them insist these are no dark shadows, useful for scaring the children, but ammunition in the war against the great demon — risk.

You are so complex that you need a degree in astrophysics to understand them. They are essentially simple products that anyone who knows about gambling can fathom in a moment.

So what are they?

Well, at their simplest, they allow financial whiz-kids like Nick Leeson of Barings to bet where prices are going to be some time in the future.

But as Barings discovered after Singapore-based Leeson ran up at least \$800 million of losses, bringing the blue-blooded bank to its knees, those whiz-kids can sometimes lose their shirts like any gambler from the Mississippi to Monte Carlo.

Say, for example, you think the price of gold is going up. You buy a simple derivative called a "future," which makes money when the price goes up. But you lose the cost of that future if you're wrong and the price goes down.

More risky is another popular derivative, called an "option," which gives you

the right — but no obligation — to buy or sell at a particular price at some specified time in the week or months ahead.

These futures and options are very useful for people like farmers who can use them to lock in fixed prices for their crops even before the first green shoots have appeared.

Miners can ensure they know what their copper or tin will be worth. And money managers can sleep easy, knowing their clients are insulated from sudden movements in interest rates.

The trouble is that for every farmer, miner or money manager with a genuine need for derivatives, there has to be a speculator willing to take on the risk.

If the farmer buys an option, there has to be someone to sell it to him. If the pen-

sion fund manager wants to rid herself of the risk that interest rates might rise, someone else has to take on the risk.

And that risk can be unlimited. If you're a trader gambling on the price of coffee going down and there's a frost in Brazil, the coffee price can go up and up and up, leaving you with unlimited losses.

What's more, critics say, it is all too easy to pull the wool over the eyes of senior bank managers and financial controllers with only a shaky grasp of the subject.

Options experts have a Greek alphabet soup of terms they use. They talk of Delta and Gamma and Theta and Vega. All are useful trading tools but they could hardly have been better designed to confuse those outside the charmed inner circle of derivatives experts.

So should derivatives be better regulated? Should new laws be passed? Almost everyone inside the industry says no.

They argue that passing new laws is the wrong way to go about solving the problem and that the right way is self-regulation — making sure the banks themselves control their traders, manage their risk and, above all, always know what is happening.

The buzz word is "education," ensuring that bank managers understand their traders' actions, know enough to spot any rogues, and allow their bosses to sleep peacefully under their duvets, well protected from demons and dragons.

## Barings collapse shakes markets, hunt on for buyers

LONDON (R) — Britain's central bank governor called for calm Monday after the nation's oldest investment bank Barings collapsed under the weight of losses by a single maverick trader, sending shockwaves through world markets.

As administrators moved in to unravel the complex deals that allowed a 28-year-old manager in Singapore to lose more than the entire bank was worth, the British pound slumped to record lows against the German mark and shares tumbled in Asia and London.

Barings, a revered 233-year-old investment bank whose clients include Britain's Queen Elizabeth, went under Sunday with losses estimated at that time of about \$800 million.

The pound was at 2.3055 marks in London at midday, just above a new low in early European trading of 2.2950 marks.

British Finance Minister Kenneth Clarke was due to address parliament later Monday as calls grew for tougher regulations of financial institutions.

"People will ask whether the old-fashioned procedures in Britain conducted by an old-boy network are really relevant for an international global market... we have got to do far more," said opposition Labour finance spokesman Gordon Brown.

Administrators — a team of top accountants — were trying to establish if any of Barings' various operations could find buyers. One analyst said several European banks seeking to reinforce their investment banking presence could be interested.

The losses to individual investors and customers of Barings are still being calculated. But Queen Elizabeth's investment portfolio, reputed to stand at about \$60 million (\$55 million), was thought to be protected along with others under the Barings asset management arm.

Staff at Barings were subdued as they arrived for work in London, unsure whether they still had a job.

Nick Leeson, the London-based trader said to have masterminded the derivatives dealing, was nowhere to be found. One report had him in Thailand, another that he was in a hospital in Malaysia, and yet another that he had turned himself in to the Singapore authorities.

Financial Markets		
Jordan Times		
In co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank		
U.S. Dollar in International Markets		
Currency	New York Close Date 27/2/95	Tokyo Close Date 27/2/95
Sterling Pound	1.5885	1.5801*
Deutsche Mark	1.4610	1.4575
Swiss Franc	1.2452	1.2310**
French Franc	5.1485	5.1480**
Japanese Yen	96.96	96.96
European Currency Unit	1.2750	1.2755**

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Eurobank Opening = 4.000 AMT. GMFT

Borrower Interest Rates		
Date 27/2/1995		
Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	5.81	5.93
Sterling Pound	6.31	6.50
Deutsche Mark	4.75	4.81
Swiss Franc	3.37	3.50
French Franc	5.75	6.00
Japanese Yen	2.06	2.06
European Currency Unit	6.06	6.10

Interest bid rates for amounts exceeding J.D. 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Precious Metals					
Metal	USDOz	JD/Gm*	Metal	USDOz	JD/Gm
Gold	577.25	7.50	Silver	4.60	0.110

\* 24 karat

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin		
Date: 27/2/1995		
Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6840	0.6960
Sterling Pound	1.0450	1.1005
Deutsche Mark	0.4754	0.4778
Swiss Franc	0.5599	0.5617
French Franc	0.1346	0.1353
Japanese Yen	0.7146	0.7164
Dutch Guilder	0.4541	0.4562
Swedish Krona	0.0000	0.0000
Italian Lira*	0.0423	0.0425
Belgian Franc	0.0000	0.0000

\* Per 100

Other Currencies		
Date: 27/2/1995		
Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahrain Dinar	1.8580	1.8550
Lebanese Lira*	0.041845	0.042970
Saudi Riyal	0.18476	0.18670
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.3150	2.3500
Omani Riyal	0.1898	0.1920
Egyptian Pound	0.1900	0.1910
UAE Dirham	1.7940	1.8110
Greek Drachma	0.1545	0.1561
Cypriot Pound	1.4305	1.5302

\* Per 100

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES		
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LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at mid-session on the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Monday.		
U.S. \$1.00 costs	Canadian dollar	Dutch guilders
1.4586/96	1.6348/58	1.2368/78
1.6348/58	1.2368/78	1.2368/78
1.2368/78	1.0307/07	1.5413/63
1.0307/07	1.657/6.2.6	1.9675/85
1.657/6.2.6	7.2800/00	6.4570/20
7.2800/00	5.7050/00	5.7050/00
5.7050/00	1.5820/30	1.5820/30
1.5820/30	\$376.75/377.05	\$376.75/377.05
\$376.75/377.05		

## Ajax favourites in European Cup

**PARIS (AFP)** — Ajax Amsterdam, who travel to Croatia's Hajduk Split on Wednesday, have emerged as favourites in one of the most open European Cups in years.

Ajax beat holders AC Milan in Trieste, Italy, in November in a match which may have marked the beginning of Ajax's reemergence as Europe's most formidable club side.

Ajax have won three European Cups in 1971, 1972 and 1973.

However, Ajax could be ruled out of Europe next season even if they win the Dutch League, Cup and European Cup treble.

Early next week, Dutch football officials meet to discuss what is to be done after 10 Ajax players refused to play for Holland against Portugal in a friendly on Wednesday.

Dutch football association president Jeroen Sprengers, who said several punishments were being considered, added: "We can even stop Ajax from entering any European competition next season."

All the quarter-finalists, with the possible exception of Split, have either had superb Champions League form or traditional success in Europe.

Last year's finalists, Barcelona and AC Milan, have the pressure eased by a lower profile than usual. Milan host Benfica and Barcelona enter-

tain Paris Saint Germain on Wednesday.

The flamboyance of Barcelona last season has been replaced by a 1994/95 version which has been rocked by domestic thrashings.

A 5-0 loss at Racing Santander on February 11 and a 4-1 defeat in the Spanish Cup by Atletico Madrid days earlier caused shock waves through the club.

However, Barcelona have won their last two league matches including a 2-1 victory over Compostela on Saturday.

On paper, Barcelona have

main French threat and has already shown an appetite for Spanish opposition, scoring in the both legs of PSC's 1993 UEFA Cup quarter-final victory over Real Madrid.

However, Benfica could gain revenge if a capacity 130,000 crowd at the Stadium of Light gets behind them in the second leg.

Most of Milan's season has been a struggle. They only just qualified for the European Cup quarter-finals, lost to Argentina's Velez Sarsfield in the Intercontinental Cup, were beaten in the Italian Cup and have shown only

mediocre form in the league.

Bayern Munich, like Ajax three-time winners, host IFK Gothenburg without injured skipper Lothar Matthaus. But at least Bayern will have had competitive tune-ups after two weeks of Bundesliga action after the winter break.

Gothenburg have had a series of friendly matches for their preparation since retaining the Swedish championship last year and drawing 1-1 with Barcelona in the Champions League on December 7.

IFK coach Roger Gustafsson, realising his best players often go abroad, said: "We must try to win the European Cup now — this team will never have another chance."

He said: "We will have to watch him. He can set up goals with both feet and is drawn to goal like a magnet. He's their capital player."

International left winger David Ginola will be the

key to the key to the

success of the team.

PSG's Alain Roche believes Bulgarian Hristo Stoichkov, deprived of former strike partner Romario, could hold the key to the

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## Barcelona keep Cruyff's dream alive

PARIS (AFP) — Barcelona kept Johan Cruyff's dream of the Spanish title alive here on Sunday as front-runners Real Madrid and chief rivals Deportivo La Coruna both slipped up.

Real's hard-earned 1-1 draw at Athletic Bilbao allowed Barcelona to edge to within four points of the top, while Deportivo surrendered second place to Cruyff's men by slumping to a 1-0 defeat at Espanol Barcelona.

Cruyff's claim that his side could still win the title seemed at best optimistic and at worst misguided after his side's recent 5-0 defeat at Racing Santander and 4-1 cup reverse at Atletico Madrid.

But the weekend 2-1 victory at Compostela — the first coming through Cruyff's son Jordi — came on top of last week's success at Espanol to take the side to 31 points.

Real, who went behind to a 44th minute header from Athletic skipper Genaro Andrinua, needed Ivan Zamorano's 19th goal 15 minutes from time to earn a point.

The Chilean nodded in a left centre to take his side to 35 points, with Barcelona on 31 and La Coruna 30.

In Italy, it was a day of wonderful strikes as Fausto Asprilla and Gianluca Vialli both shone. Their brilliance, however, changed nothing at the top as Juventus remained six points clear after their seventh away win of the season.

Colombian Asprilla, just back from injury, netted twice, in the 11th and 52nd minute — the first a brilliant volley on the turn from 30 metres after taking a pass from Ginofranco Zola — for Parma to see off fourth-placed Lazio 2-0.

But Vialli's equally impressive late winner at Sampdoria cancelled out his efforts.

Sampdoria, without the injured English midfielder David Platt, could have had no excuses after wasting three gilt-edged chance through Attilio Lombardo.

Twice he surfaced on the right, dragging his first shot across the box and then hitting the left past with a carbon copy effort. He then latched onto a low cross from the left just eight yards out and managed to spoon his side-footer way over the bar.

Those escapes gave Vialli the perfect chance to produce the match's punch line with his 11th goal of the campaign. He broke down the right, pushing off one defender then sidestepping past Pietro Vierchowod before blasting home inside the near post for the only goal of Sunday's game.

AS Roma won 2-0 over struggling Reggiana to stay third, while another striker to shine was Gabriel Batistuta, the Argentinian netting Fiorentina's second in the 2-2 draw with Inter Milan.

It was Batistuta's 18th goal of the season and the perfect way to celebrate his new contract with his club which should keep him there until 1999.

His joy was dimmed, however, after he had two penalty appeals turned down. "If those weren't penalties, then I don't understand the game anymore," he said.

In Germany, Borussia Dortmund beat Cologne 2-1 at the weekend through Jurgen Tretschok and Stephane Chapuisat to maintain their four-point lead over second-placed Werder Bremer.

Dortmund have now scored seven times in two matches since resuming from their two-month winter break.

Two goals from Mario Basler helped Werder Bremen notch up their second win in a row, at Bayer Leverkusen.

## SPORTS IN BRIEF

### Rai on bench for Barcelona Cup-tie

CHATEAUROUX, France (AFP) — Paris St. Germain coach Luis Fernandez keeps Brazilian star Rai on the substitutes' bench for Wednesday's European Champions' Cup quarter-final first leg tie in Barcelona. Liberian George Weah teams up with David Ginola in attack. Playmaker Valdo is fit but the club's third Brazilian, Ricardo, is unlikely to play again this season after tearing a thigh muscle a third time. Fernandez is a fan of Barcelona coach Johan Cruyff and as part of his course for a higher diploma in coaching he needs to spend a week with a foreign club. "I'd like to do it at Barcelona, but will they have me after we've beaten them?" he said confidently.

### Chinese runners turn to law

BEIJING (R) — Former members of China's world-beating "Ma family army" distance running team, including double world record holder Wang Junxia, want to become lawyers. The China sports daily said on Monday. But the track stars will not hang up their running shoes just yet, the newspaper said. "The country needs law, law is essential to reform. I want to be a lawyer," it quoted Wang, who smashed the women's 10,000 and 3,000 metres records in one extraordinary week in August 1993, as saying. The entire Liisong women's distance running team, which replaced the group trained by controversial Ma Junren, after it broke up last month, were applying to study law at Liaoning University in Northeastern China, Wang said.

### Gunnell launches drugs campaign

LONDON (R) — Sally Gunnell launched a campaign on Monday aimed at steering Britain's athletes clear of some of the drug-taking controversies which scarred the sport last year. Gunnell, the British women's team captain, has written to nearly 500 internationals urging them to ensure that over-the-counter products they take do not contain banned substances. And she will continue her initiative by working with the British Athletic Federation to make them fully aware of the correct procedures when they are tested.

Sprinter Solomon Wariso and javelin thrower Colin Mackenzie were both banned for three months in 1994 after taking what they thought were harmless products.

### Chelsea fans ferried back

OSTENDE, Belgium (AFP) — About 30 Chelsea fans, on their way to Tuesday's European Cup Winners' Cup quarter-final with Bruges, were put on the ferry back to England on Monday after a night of trouble. Police said 11 drunken fans had smashed up a cafe and up to 20 on the ferry from Ransgate were found not to have tickets for the high-risk match. Security forces were worried that 800 forged tickets might have been sold in England and that other fans had obtained tickets for parts of the ground allocated for Belgian supporters. Fans were meant to be kept apart as one of a series of measures aimed at preventing trouble.

### Schneider wins 54th World Cup race

MARIBOR, Slovenia (R) — Olympic champion Vreni Schneider stormed to the 34th victory of her World Cup career when she won her sixth Maribor slalom Monday. Schneider, lying second after the first leg on Sunday, swept aside the opposition on Monday to win by more than a second in a combined two-leg time of one minute 45.26 seconds. The 30-year-old Swiss racer gained the first of her six Maribor slalom wins in 1989 and has now won here four years in succession. Heavy rain on Sunday followed by snow forced the organisers to postpone the second leg till Monday. Slovenia's Katerina Koren, who was born in Maribor, finished second in an aggregate 1:46.65, ahead of Norway's Trude Gimle, who gained a place on the podium for the first time by finishing third in 1:46.88.

### QPR draw 1-1 against Forest

LONDON (R) — Nottingham Forest striker Stan Collymore, cleared of two assault charges in court last week, was guilty of a dreadful miss that allowed relegation-threatened Queens Park Rangers to draw 1-1 at home on Sunday. Simon Barker nodded in the equaliser for Rangers in the 87th minute to take his team one precious point further away from the relegation trap-door of the English Premier League. Forest had appeared to be heading for their first away win in four games after Steve Stone's first goal in five months in the 58th minute. But in the 70th minute Collymore fired over the bar after being presented with a chance no more than three yards (metres) out.

## Enqvist stuns Chang in U.S. final Krajicek defeats Stich to win Euro Card Open

PHILADELPHIA (Agencies) — Thomas Enqvist of Sweden scored the biggest win of his career when he upset third seed and defending champion Michael Chang 6-4 6-6 6-0 in the final of the U.S. indoor tennis tournament on Sunday.

The 20-year-old Enqvist had never beaten a top 10 opponent until his three-set triumph over second seed and world number two Andre Agassi on Saturday in the semifinals.

"This is my fourth title but my biggest," Enqvist said. "I beat two guys in the top ten and I have never done that before. I know if I play good tennis, I can give them a good match."

The 43rd-ranked Enqvist said the win was "a little bit surprising," even though he tries to go out for every match in a positive frame of mind. Enqvist will move inside the top 25 rankings for the first time of his career Monday.

Chang, who came in ranked sixth, failed to pick up his 20th career title, but will be ranked fourth when the ratings are released Monday.

After losing the first set in 23 minutes, Enqvist said he wanted to show the crowd of 8,802 that he could play some tennis. He added: "I wanted to play a better set because they had paid to see good tennis."

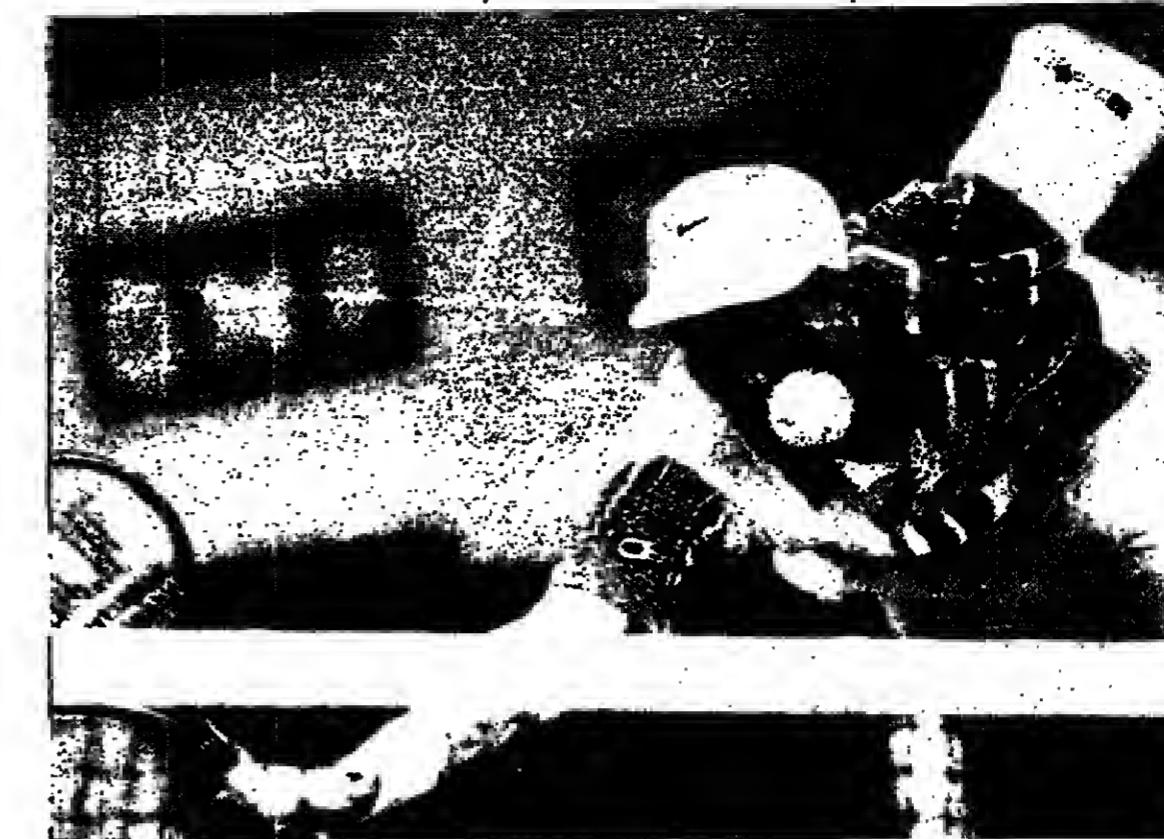
Chang barely missed a shot in the first set and Enqvist was rushing his returns. But then the Swede began to place his booming serve accurately and he hit 14 aces for the match, the fastest being 125 miles per hour (201 kph), which was also the fastest of the week here.

Chang had trouble with his serve after rolling through the first set. By the time they got to the third set, Enqvist needed only 15 minutes to take the final set and claim victory.

It was a really strange match," Enqvist said. "Michael started off really good. He didn't miss a shot, and I was rushing it a little bit. I tried to play a better second set, then suddenly I began to play better and better. Then, I was playing unbelievable."

"He served well and produced big serves when he needed to," Chang said. "He cut down on his errors and played good tennis. I should have put more pressure on him. In fact, I should have put even more on him than I did in the first set."

Enqvist put in 57 per cent of his first serves compared to the America's 43 per cent. Chang won only 50 per cent of his service points, but Enqvist wasn't much better. He won 52 per cent of his service points and dropped service five times while breaking



Dutchman Richard Krajicek

Chang six times.

Enqvist 12 months ago had surgery on his left knee for patella tendinitis and was off the tour for two months. In November, he had the same operation on his right knee.

When he started the 1995 season he questioned how he would stand up to matches, but his doubts were quashed when he won in Auckland in January.

Enqvist says he has not set himself any ranking goals for 1995, but he "wants to improve my game and have fewer bad matches."

The meeting was the first between Enqvist and the 23-year-old Chang. Enqvist moved into Agassi as the only players with two titles this year.

Enqvist is 16-2 this year, after handing Agassi first loss in 16 matches this year and dropping Chang to 15-4 in 1995. Enqvist failed to reach a final in 1994.

Krajicek overcomes Stich

In Stuttgart, Germany, Richard Krajicek squandered a two-set lead and three match points before upsetting Michael Stich in five sets to win the EuroCard Open Sunday.

Just when it began to look like Stich would end up stealing the victory, Krajicek pulled his game together again and won 7-6, 7-6, 6-3 (6-8), 1-6, 6-3 in three hours.

"It was pretty rough to have three match points and then be 2-2 20 minutes later. I should have finished him off in three. But I put up a good fight in the fifth," said the Dutchman, who had 23 aces to end the week with 92.

This completely unsettled Krajicek, who had dominated the match until then,

and the dutchman failed to hold his serve in the fourth set.

"In the fourth set I tried to relax, the third set was very emotional for me," Krajicek said.

There was a brief moment

of hope for Krajicek when he broke Stich in the fourth game, but he then dropped his own serve at love and the German sailed through to set level to the score.

Stich, who trounced top-seeded Boris Becker 6-0, 6-3 in Saturday's semifinals, was unable to hold his momentum.

"I gave it away in the fourth, but I had been trying to catch up with him for three sets, it was very tough mentally and I ran out of steam," Stich said.

The match was decided in the seventh game of the final set. Stich saved three break points before finally surrendering his serve.

Krajicek, up one break, served to love in the next game and broke the German again, converting his fourth match point with a powerful forehand return down the line.

"He started to serve very well again and I couldn't get my first serve in," Stich said of the fifth set.

In the 1993 final, Stich won 7-5 in the fifth set, after the umpire had overruled a linesman and called Krajicek's serve out, no match point.

The call so upset the dutchman that he dropped his serve and lost the match.

"It did cross my mind after third set but I tried to push those thoughts away and to

get pumped up for the fifth," Krajicek said.

Such will get his opportunity for revenge when the Netherlands and Germany meet in the second round of the Davis Cup next month in Utrecht, Netherlands.

### Novotna wins uneven final

Top seed Jana Novotna of the Czech Republic won the \$161,000 WTA tournament here Sunday with an uneven 6-7(5-7), 6-3, 6-4 victory over unseeded German Barbara Rittner.

Games went with serve until the tie-breaker in the first set, won by Rittner on a strong backhand passing shot.

Novotna, the world No. 5, then roared to a 3-0 lead in the second set before Rittner broke back. The German missed two good chances to even the score, allowing her much more experienced Czech rival to take the set.

The third set again opened with the 26-year-old Czech swinging to a 3-0 lead. But Novotna then seemed to lose her pace and concentration, and Rittner equalised at 3-3.

The German was 30-0 ahead in the seventh game before double faulting and missing shots to lose her serve.

Novotna looked poised for sure victory. But she then doublefaulted twice and missed two volleys in the eighth game, leaving the score at 4-4.

But Rittner again missed on her serve and shots, losing the ninth game and leaving Novotna to serve out the final.

## Agreement reached over Cape Town bid for 2004 Games

CAPE TOWN (AP) — Feuding Olympic officials, city councilors and private investors have agreed on who should control Cape Town's bid to host the 2004 Games. At a meeting Sunday night described as stormy, the groups decided the Cape Town City Council would decide whether it or another group it designates should sign the bid contract with the National Olympic Committee of South Africa (NOCSA).

While few specifics were divulged after the meeting, it appeared to allow for supermarket magnate Raymond Ackerman — head of a private committee that so far has spearheaded the Cape Town effort — to play a prominent role.

Last week, Ackerman accused NOCSA head Sam Ramsamy of renegeing on a verbal assurance to sign the

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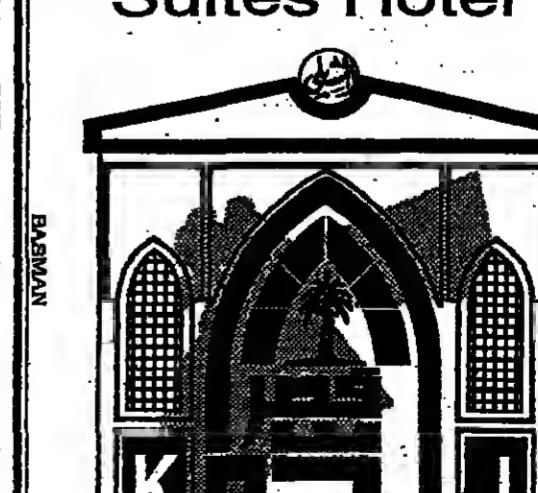
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GIVE ONE, GET TWO

Both vulnerable. South deals.  
NORTH  
♦ Q 10 9 3 2  
♦ Q 10 2  
♦ A  
♦ A 8 4  
WEST EAST  
♦ K 7 6  
♦ K 5 3  
♦ Q 9 7 4 3  
♦ K 8 5  
♦ 5 2  
SOUTH  
♦ K 7  
♦ A 9 8 4  
♦ 10 2  
♦ 9 7 5  
The bidding:

"Why do most column hands feature rubber bridge instead of duplicate?" asks a reader. Since rubber bridge players are not as concerned with imprecise tricks, they are more likely to take chances to make or break a contract, which is good material for a column. This hand is typical.

To get home, it was obvious to one and all that declarer would have to develop spades. A low spade was

led to the king and West ducked. Declarer continued with a spade and, not unnaturally, finessed the ten. East raised in the 10th card with the club and partnered with another club. Declarer ruffed with the ace, drew trumps with the ten and queen and was at the crossroads.

The queen of spades was led and, when East produced the six, declarer not surprisingly elected not to ruff—it was all the earlier play in spades had been right! East had the ace. So the defenders collected two sp

## NEWS IN BRIEF

## Head of French interests section due in Iraq

BAGHDAD (AFP) — The head of France's new interests section in Iraq is due here Tuesday four years after Paris broke off diplomatic ties with Baghdad, sources in the Romanian embassy said. Jean-François Nodinot, 62, is to head the section based at the Romanian embassy in Baghdad which will open after the 'Eid Al Fitr festival. Paris, which has had no ties with Baghdad since the Gulf war to liberate Kuwait in February 1991, announced Jan. 6 it would open an interests section. France has joined a rush by other European and Middle East countries to secure a foothold in the lucrative Iraqi market once U.N. oil and trade sanctions imposed when Iraq invaded Kuwait in August 1990 are lifted. France and Russia have led growing calls within the U.N. Security Council for the sanctions to be lifted, or at least eased, but have come up against stiff U.S. and British opposition. Mr. Nodinot was ambassador to Yemen from 1989 to 1992 and adviser at the Baghdad embassy from 1977 to 1980.

## Israel to deploy motorcycle police

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israeli police are setting up a special motorcycle squad to be deployed in Jerusalem, the authorities said Monday. Some 30 hand-picked men will be equipped with bullet-proof vests, helmets, pistols and automatic weapons. They will ride Kawasaki 500CC bikes. However, they have yet to take delivery of the new motorcycles and have begun training on scooters.

## Ramos to visit UAE for economic talks

ABU DHABI (AFP) — President Fidel Ramos will visit the United Arab Emirates on Sunday to discuss economic cooperation in the first visit here by a Philippines head of state, an embassy spokesman said. Mr. Ramos will hold talks with UAE President Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan Al Nahayan on boosting political, trade and economic links, the spokesman told AFP. He will also meet with members of the Philippine community to explain his country's economic reforms and urge them to invest at home. More than 80,000 Filipinos live in the UAE, remitting home between \$50 million and \$100 million a year, according to bankers. Philippine exports to the UAE, mostly clothes and manufactured products, have surged by more than 10 times over the past decade to reach around \$149 million in 1993, embassy figures show. The UAE's exports to the Philippines, mainly oil, topped \$250 million.

## Velayati to visit EU member Greece

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati is to begin a tour of Greece, Austria and Slovakia next week in a bid to dispel misconceptions about Iran, a newspaper said here Monday. The visits are aimed at raising "awareness about Iranian ideology and culture," the English-language Iran News said quoting Foreign Ministry sources. "The Foreign Ministry plans to rectify these misconceptions by establishing broader relations with European Union member states and present them with a realistic vision of the Islamic republic," it added. Mr. Velayati's official visit to Greece and Austria will be only the second by an Iranian foreign minister to European Union members since the EU froze high-level exchanges with Iran in December 1992.

## Bomber critically injured in blast in Ankara

ANKARA (AFP) — A man who was planting a bomb at the offices of a pro-Ataturk organisation was critically injured when the device went off prematurely, witnesses said here Monday. The Anatolia news agency earlier reported that the man was killed. Witnesses said the man lost both hands and was taken to hospital after he tried to plant a bomb in toilets on the second floor of the offices of an association upholding the secular ideas of Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, the founding father of the Turkish state. They added that the bomb could not have been very powerful because no-one else was injured and it caused no serious damage. The organisation's vice president, Tevfik Kizilayka, told AFP that the association had not received any threats, but that its address had recently been published by the weekly Tarif, the mouthpiece of the IBD-C (Islamic Front for the Combatants of the Greater Orient), a Muslim fundamentalist group.

## Iraqi court sentences 2 criminals to death

BAGHDAD (R) — An Iraqi court has sentenced two criminals to be hanged for murder and theft, the government newspaper Al Jumhouria said on Monday. "A specialised court of the Ministry of Interior has ruled to hang criminals Rida Jaber and Tahsin Hussein," it reported. The two burgled a house and murdered the son and daughter of its owner, but the paper did not say if the ruling had yet been carried out. Crime, particularly theft, is rampant in Iraq, under punitive U.N. trade sanctions imposed for its 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

## Saudis bark at more Indonesian pilgrims

JAKARTA (AP) — Fearing another stampede like those that killed hundreds of pilgrims in years past, Saudi Arabia is likely to turn down Indonesia's request for a larger quota to visit Mecca in 1995, an official said Monday. About 250 people died last year as worshippers surged during a pebble-throwing ritual in the annual pilgrimage to Islam's holiest shrine. In 1990, around 1,430 people, including some 650 Indonesians, died in a pedestrian tunnel that leads from Mecca to Mina. Religious Affairs Minister Tarmizi Taher said there was little hope that Saudi Arabia would allow Indonesia to exceed the quota for those intending to make the pilgrimage. "The Saudi government is concerned with the safety of pilgrims after the incidents, which were indirectly caused by excessive numbers," Mr. Taher said after a meeting with President Suharto.

## Finnish minister looks for business in Israel, Gaza

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — Finland's Deputy Prime Minister and Trade Minister Pertti Salolainen began Monday a three-day visit to Israel and Gaza Strip to boost economic ties, officials said. He brought a delegation of businessmen from the energy, high technology and telecommunications sectors for a series of meetings with Israeli officials and companies. He was to go to the autonomous Gaza Strip on Tuesday.

## UAE frees ship held on suspicion

ABU DHABI (R) — The United Arab Emirates has released a cargo ship held for nearly a month on suspicion of smuggling Iraqi dates, India's UAE ambassador said on Monday. "The UAE authorities informed me that the cargo and the ship were released," M.P.M. Menon told Reuters. He declined to comment on whether this meant the authorities had cleared the ship of violating U.N. trade sanctions on Iraq. The Gulf Splendour's 16-man crew are Indians. The captain's wife was also on board. The ship was boarded by U.S. Navy personnel in the Gulf Jan. 18 on suspicion that its cargo of 2,100 tonnes of dates came from Iraq. The captain said the cargo had been loaded in Iran. The ship was diverted to the small UAE port of Umm Al Quwain early in February to be investigated by UAE authorities. "The ship is Panamanian-flagged and owned in the UAE but we were worried about the (Indian) crew getting stuck," Mr. Menon said. He added that the ship's cargo might be sold in the UAE, not in India as originally planned.

## 80 killed in carbomb in Zakho — PUK

NICOSIA (AFP) — A massive carbomb killed at least 80 people and wounded more than 100 others in the town of Zakho in Kurdish-controlled northern Iraq on Monday, officials said.

Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) official Kosar Rassoul, contacted by AFP in the main town of Erbil by telephone from Nicosia, blamed the attack on "Baghdad intelligence services."

The bomb went off early Monday in the town in Dohuk province bordering Turkey, Mr. Rassoul said.

He gave the toll as at least 80 dead and more than 100 wounded in an attack be condemned as an "odious crime." Zakho is under the control of the PUK's rival Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP).

Masoud Barzani's KDP and the PUK led by Jalal Talabani have been locked in a bitter power struggle for several months in which Iraqi President Saddam Hussein has offered to mediate.

A U.N. spokesman in Geneva confirmed that a huge bomb had gone off in Zakho killing about 80 people, but said details were sketchy as U.N. personnel were based in Dohuk.

And the opposition alliance the Iraqi National Congress (INC) in London also said a carbomb had exploded in the town causing at least 200 casualties, and destroying 20 cars and 50 shops.

The area has been controlled by the Kurds in defiance of Baghdad since the end of the January-February 1991 Gulf war. Allied warplanes patrol an air exclusion zone imposed above the 36th parallel to protect the Kurds from Iraqi forces.

A carbomb in the central market of the northern Iraqi city of Erbil killed five people and injured 82, many of them children, on Jan. 22, 1993.

Kurdish security officials at the time said Kurdish leaders had received information indicating that the Baghdad government was planning to unleash a "terrorist campaign against Kurdistan," in northern Iraq.

There have been regular carbomb attacks in the region since the Kurds took control.

One targeted the official convoy of Daniel Mitterrand, the wife of French President Francois Mitterrand, during a visit to Kurdistan in July 1992. Five people were killed in that blast.

Meanwhile, the Iranian news agency IRNA reported in Tehran on Monday that at least 100 people had been killed in clashes between rival Kurdish factions in the region in the past three days.

The agency said a "large number" of people had been injured in an attack Friday by the KDP and a Hizbollah party.

Intense clashes were underway Monday in the regions of Shaghlahe, Palisan and Ranich, IRNA said adding that the KDP and the pro-Iranian Hizbollah were preparing to launch a new offensive on PUK strongholds.

But the reports were denied by Mr. Rassoul.

The PUK controls the areas of Erbil and Sulaymaniyah while the KDP runs a strip along the frontier with Iran and the region of Dohuk.

## U.S. Marines go ashore in Mogadishu to help retreat

MOGADISHU (AP) — American Marines came ashore in Mogadishu for the second time in two years Monday, returning to protect the last retreating U.N. peacekeepers.

About 150 Marines landed on a beach at the city's seaport airport by helicopter and helcat air cushion vessels to set up command headquarters and mark landing routes for about 2,000 others to follow.

U.S. commanders would not say when the rest of the troops would come ashore, but their arrival was clearly imminent.

In Washington, Pentagon spokesman Scott Campbell

## Muasher sworn in

JORDAN'S Ambassador-designate to Israel Marwan Al Muasher was Monday sworn in before His Majesty King Hussein at a special ceremony held at the Royal Court.

The ceremony was attended by Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qasem and Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Al Kabriti.

Dr. Muasher served as head of the Jordan Information Bureau (JIB) in Washington and later as the spokesman for Jordan's peace negotiations with Israel.

Dr. Muasher is expected to leave for Tel Aviv to assume office next month.

Israel has not yet named its ambassador to Jordan.



Jordan's Ambassador-designate to Israel Marwan Muasher is sworn in on Monday in front of His Majesty King Hussein (Petra photo)

## 2 militants executed in Egypt

CAIRO (Agencies) — Two militants have been hanged for killing two German tourists and two Egyptians in a gun attack on a market in a holiday resort, the Egyptian news agency reported Monday.

They were hanged Saturday in a Cairo jail after President Hosni Mubarak had rejected an appeal against the military court sentence handed down Dec. 3 for the murders of Hurzada on the Red Sea last September.

The bodies of Mohammad Atallah, Omar and Rabih Mahmoud Hussein were taken and buried during the night in Qena, 640 kilometres south of Cairo, police said.

## COLUMN 8

## Teenage runaway flying back to London

KUALA LUMPUR (R) — A 14-year-old British boy is scheduled to fly back to London Monday night after he ran away to Malaysia using his father's passport and credit card, airline officials said.

A spokesman for Malaysian Airlines said Peter Kerry has a confirmed seat on the midnight flight to London on Malaysian Airlines. "We hope the Malaysian government takes a sympathetic attitude," he said. Diplomats said Malaysia would probably let Kerry go, despite the fact that he entered the country illegally. Kerry, now in the custody of the British High Commission, bluffed his way past immigration in Britain and Malaysia using his father's passport on a strange odyssey that began a week ago with a family quarrel over a spilled can of spaghetti. He was discovered Sunday night by Malaysian residents in the northern town of Kota Bharu, who took him to the home of a British citizen. Kerry, wearing a blue baseball cap, looked fit but a little plump after arriving at Kuala Lumpur International Airport from Kota Bharu. He said nothing to reporters. A High Commission official, who met Kerry at the airport, said the mission was working with Malaysian officials to arrange his speedy return to Britain.

## Paparazzi hawking pictures of topless Diana

LONDON (AFP) — Paparazzi Daniel Angeli is hawking photographs of a topless Princess Diana, snapped sunbathing in the French West Indies, the Daily Express reported Monday. "They will sell for a fortune if anyone has the bottle to run them," the tabloid commented, adding that they were of high quality. A French photographer working for Angeli secretly took the pictures of the Princess of Wales, 33, beside a private swimming pool on the tiny island of Saint Barthélemy, where she was staying until Sunday. Angeli took the photographs in 1992 of Princess Diana's sister-in-law the Duchess of York, shown topless and in a compromising position with her financial adviser beside a swimming pool in the French Mediterranean resort of Saint Tropez.

There has also been sporadic shelling and bombing of Chechen-held towns and villages south, east and west of Grozny, causing significant civilian casualties. Seven civilians were killed and 15 others wounded in Shalai, south of Grozny, on Saturday when Russian warplanes bombed the town.

The latest fighting comes amid reports of high-ranking Russian officials converging on Sunday from a group of Human Rights Watch/Helsinki researchers.

A new report released in Washington and based on a 10-day field investigation said Russian forces were committing gross abuses against the civilian population, using disproportionate force to dislodge Chechen fighters from villages.

Russian troops have been firing artillery at staging posts and routes used by Chechen fighters to infiltrate the capital.

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Mr. Rabin's office said in a statement that Mr. Bitterlich showed understanding for the suffering that was caused by "inaction and irresponsible reports," concerning Arad.

Mr. Rabin also discussed the Middle East peace process with Mr. Bitterlich and singled out Iran as a country threatening stability in the region by supporting militant groups, the statement said.

Israeli-German relations have been strained by Germany's ties with Iran and also by recent leaks in Germany about alleged secret talks to win the release of Israeli navigator Ron Arad who was shot down over Lebanon on June 18.

A German newspaper reported last week that Germany was mediating between Israel and Iran, and that Arad's release was imminent.

Israeli officials denied such talks and complained that leaks harmed Arad's case and caused pain to his family.

German officials have confirmed that they have discussed Arad with the Iranians, but refused comment on the newspaper reports.

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